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CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
YU SHANSHAN
DESIGNER:
ZHAO YAN

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Summer of techno?

INTRO festival may have played to a packed audience. But the advent of a local rave scene is still a long way off when listeners can't tell the difference between a pop remix and the Chemical Brothers.

The search for skilled electronic musicians who can support a local scene has been slow going, but Acupuncture has a new approach: apprenticeships.

The label hopes to connect disc jockeys with fans eager to master the craft of bending waves and noise channels into pumping beats.

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WORLD CUP ! "PARTY HEADQUARTERS" PUB! & PATIO! GIANT SCREENS...

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City population to break 25 mil by 2020

Boom taxes environment, transport and welfare



Taking subway to work during the morning rush is a headache for the city's workers.

IC Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing's failure to clamp down on runaway growth could jeopardize the city's future development, according to a report issued by the municipal government following its yearly survey.

The capital has long fallen short of natural resources. The new boom is straining the supply of water, food, housing, energy and transportation to the breaking point and wreaking havoc on the environment.

In 1989, the city government estimated Beijing could support a maximum population of 8 million; it broke 10 million residents in the early 1990s.

The State Council approved a revised plan in 2003 that would increase the maximum load to 18 million persons by 2020.

Those estimates of the government's ability to reign in growth were far too positive.

At the end of last year, the city was reporting an official head count of 17.6 million persons: a jump of 600,000 in less than one year.

Newestimates anticipate the city population will exceed 23 million by 2015 and 25 million by 2020.

The survey attributed the growth to market reforms that have further mobilized the country's rural labor pool.

To support Beijing's growth, the municipal government began constructing a pipeline to the Yangtze River in the 1990s. That pipeline will be completed by 2014.

"But the rapidly growing population will tap out that new water supply within a few years," the report said.

The growth is also eroding air quality, creating "heat islands" and worsening the infamous yearly sandstorms.

Current residents produce 18,300 tons of waste everyday: the city is only equipped to handle 12,700 tons.

Rapid subway development has also failed to keep pace with the breakneck growth, even with three new lines set to open in 2014.

There is also a gross imbalance of public services, with city outskirts receiving backwards education, health care and welfare access, the report said.

While the city has trumpeted its plan to become a "World City" by 2020, reality betrays many short-

comings that could damage the city's overall competitiveness.

The city is carrying a greater load of children, retirees and unemployed people than Shanghai and Shenzhen, according to the report.

The city needs to raise the quality of its inbound migrants, it said.

While three decades of reform have brought in a large labor pool, there is still a shortage of qualified professionals in the fields of science, research and business.

"Urbanization is inevitable," Ye Limei, researcher of city planning from Beijing Academy of Social Science, said.

"The only way to support it is to be more selective about who we allow to settle in the capital," Ye said.

The survey strongly recommended that the government focus on developing its 11 satellite cities during the next two decades.

Shunyi, Tongzhou and Yizhuang are expected to support another 2.5 million residents. Their further development will top the municipal government's agenda during the next decade, officials said.

Doctors say mental patients have nowhere to go

By Chu Meng

Where to send the mentally ill is a pressing question for the capital: the city has only three hospitals specializing in their care.

The A-level public psychiatric centers in communities provide only basic daily treatment for patients with mild dementia.

The central government said it plans to build 550 mental hospitals across the country during the next two years as it struggles to respond to a wave of murders committed by the criminally insane, said Yin Li, vice minister of Public Health, last Friday.

Yin said improved treatment of mentally ill patients would

reduce the chance of future "social disturbances."

"Beijing has around 10,000 patients diagnosed with severe mental illness. Most of the hospitals that could help them are full," said Nan Zhenguo, a psychiatrist at Huilongguan Hospital, the capital's largest psychiatric facility.

"More special hospitals and rehabilitation centers are needed so the less insane can be treated and reintegrated into the community before they become a potential danger," he said.

Wards at Huilongguan Hospital are 90 percent full year round.

The capital's two other major psychiatric hospitals, Beijing No. 6

Hospital and Beijing Anding Hospital, are always at 100 percent.

"Society is in the throes of a social transformation, and that is why we are seeing a surge in the number of patients experiencing mental problems," said Zhang Yonghe, a professor of psychology at Peking University.

"There are many poor and mentally unbalanced people scattered throughout every community. That they are not given access to timely psychiatric treatment is an incredible danger," he said.

But Nan said the public's fear of the mad make the construction of new facilities a political challenge.

"A rehabilitation center should

be like a buffer zone to help patients with mild psychiatric problems return to the community. It offers patients a road by which they can return to normal life, and the model is widely used in the West," he said.

Huilongguan began its own rehabilitation pilot in October 2008 to put 289 of its psychiatric patients in Yuetai, Xicheng District.

However, the neighborhood banded together in opposition, Nan said.

Zhang Lijun, a 65-year-old resident of Sanlihe, Xicheng District, was among the protesters.

"I was afraid that those mental patients would suddenly attack me for no reason. I started taking long

routes on my way home so that I could avoid the therapy center. Parents in the neighborhood were telling their kids never to play near the institution," he said.

Three months ago, the *Mirror Evening News* reported that Beijing Xicheng Pingan Hospital was planning to build a similar center in Xizhimen.

That project has been stalled since residents protested.

"Both the doctors and the patients want to see more psychiatric hospitals and rehabilitation centers. They could help institutionalized patients return to their homes and relieve stress on the overburdened hospitals," Nan said.

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Old Summer Palace relics seen for the first time



Professionals are teaching volunteers to help archeologists clear and match pieces of porcelain debris.

By Chu Meng

It has been 150 years since Yuanmingyuan, the Old Summer Palace, existed as more than ruins.

But a new effort by the China Culture Relics Protection Foundation (CCRPF) and the School of Archaeology and Museology may restore some of its glory and unveil several artifacts to the public for the first time.

The exhibition, open through October 18, consists of two parts:

a cultural relic exhibition with 150 renovated cultural relics, including porcelain fragments, bronze Buddhas and jade carvings, and an on-location restoration effort.

Restoration volunteers are working with archeologists to unearth and reassemble artifacts damaged in the raid by Anglo-French forces more than a century ago.

Visitors can see the dig in progress through a window. At a separate interactive zone, they

can experience the excavation themselves as experts instruct them in how to dig for and restore buried replicas.

"This is the first time anyone has attempted such a large restoration of the palace," said Qian Qian, the deputy secretary-general from the Science and Technology Protection Foundation under the CCRPF.

The exhibition focuses on portable items like pottery, most of which were made during the

zenith of the Qing Dynasty during the reigns of the Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong emperors.

The pieces speak of volumes about the lives of the royal family and its harem of concubines and eunuchs.

"People usually think that everything here belonged to the royals, concubines and eunuchs," said Qian. "But some of the relics were for wedding use, which suggests that even ordinary palace workers were allowed to marry."

Restoration experts are repairing porcelain bowls excavated at Yuanmingyuan for exhibition.

Photos by Joseph Wei



Restoration of excavated artifacts includes repairing breaks, creating molds and reproductions, and restoring the original color and glazing. A new reversible process makes it possible to decompose the glue used in a restoration in the event more advanced techniques become available.

The current exhibition commemorates the original destruction of the palace gardens.

But the extent of that damage can never be fully reversed, Qian said.

The most prominent symbols of Yuanmingyuan – the ruins of Dashuifa, the Grand Waterworks destroyed in 1860 – will remain as they are.

"Their current condition is the direct result of that sad chapter of history, so no restoration will be attempted on these sites," she said.

Suicide hotline aims to save, counsel Jiangsu's aged

By Zhang Dongya

The capital's first free senior suicide hotline, opened last June in Beijing, is promoting its services in Jiangsu Province.

Elderly Jiangsu residents can call toll-free day or night to speak to suicide prevention experts at the Beijing call center.

"We received calls from all over the country during the past year, but there are still a lot of people who don't know how to reach us when they need help," Xu Kun, the hotline's founder, said.

Jiangsu was chosen because of the province's age imbalance. According to local statistics, almost 17 percent of its residents were 60 or older at the end of 2009.

The province is home to 12 percent more elderly people than anywhere else in the country.

Consequently, the Jiangsu government has created many organizations and centers to care for its aging residents. Twelve of the nursing centers in Suzhou post the suicide hotline's number beside their seniors' bedsides.

Xu and his team have already established relationships with nursing homes in Nanjing and Huai'an of Jiangsu.

The nursing centers are frequently short on medical equipment, like machines that offer joint support to the paralyzed res-



Nursing centers in Jiangsu post the suicide hotline's phone number beside the bedside of their residents. Photo provided by Xu Kun

idents. The suicide hotline and its sponsors said they would help the centers to acquire more equipment, Xu said.

The hotline also has its hands in hospice.

"In the past, we made an effort to help hospice patients realize their last wishes, like getting someone to go to their bedside. But now we think it is more important to help them want to keep living," Xu said.

During the next half year the hotline will expand to cities near

Xi'an and Guangdong, he said.

Calls to the Beijing center are answered by 10 people, most of whom are from the Social Work Department at the China Youth University for Political Sciences.

Last year, the center received thousands of phone calls from elderly people who were contemplating a permanent solution to their feelings of loneliness.

Anyone seeking suicide counseling or support can call the hotline at 800-810-0277.

Green theme park to open near Bird's Nest

Featuring the world's largest Transformers-style creation of abandoned vehicles and recycled clothing, furniture and waste paper, a "green" theme park will open next month in Beijing.

Located northeast of the Bird's Nest, the National Stadium, the environment-themed park will cover 20,000 square meters and feature five indoor halls. Visitors will not only see large exhibits constructed of waste and recycled materials, but also experience sustainable lifestyles through games and various do-it-yourself activities.

Admission will cost 80 yuan or 60 yuan for visitors aged 65 years and older and children shorter than 140 centimeters.

Green Dream Park aims to become a new hangout for families and young people where they can explore how to make their lives greener in an interesting way, organizers said.

Terms such as "low carbon emissions" and "lifestyles of health and

sustainability" will morph from loose concepts to a way of life, according to the host of the event.

"When we talk about climate change or environmental protection, they used to be very heavy topics. But we want to approach it through interesting and fun ways, while stressing our responsibility at the same time," Tina Zheng, general manager of the project, told METRO.

The chocolate-themed event attracted more than 300,000 visitors, but Zheng said the Green Dream Park, open July 16 to October 10, will draw a bigger crowd.

More large events are slated for the Olympic Green. A dinosaur theme park will open July 1 near the Bird's Nest.

Ma Yinghui, vice-director of the Chaoyang Tourism Bureau, said the municipal government is planning to ramp up events, such as exhibitions, concerts, theme parks and other outdoor festivities, around the Olympic Park.

(Xinhua)



Letter from Shanghai

In our modern global village, the World Expo may be losing its appeal for audiences that don't necessarily need to see the world's latest inventions or trends. But it is still an effective and concrete way for people to congregate, to get to know each other and brainstorm. This year it's about urban life.

A country becomes "urban" when more than half of its population lives in the cities. China has almost realized that – from

17 percent in 1978 to 46 percent in 2008.

People enjoy advantages and suffer disadvantages during urban development. The problem's causes may be the same, but the solutions differ. During the expo period, our reporters will touch on the hottest topics at the world fair, find common cases and solutions and record their observations in this series titled "Letter from Shanghai."

Beijing in danger of losing itself

By Han Manman

Harvard social scientist Nathan Glazer once published an article in *The New Republic* that said one day Shanghai could replace New York as the epitome of modernity. Indeed, it has already surpassed New York in some respects.

But to interpret Glazer's quote as aggrandizing would be an error. Glaz-

Becoming identical

"Chinese cities used to be different, but they are monotonous in their looks. More effort is needed to protect their unique characteristics," said Sha Zukang, head of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

"The Cultural Revolution destroyed relics in the form of objects. The dismantling of traditional buildings is something that is still happening today," said Ruan Yisan, a professor of ancient construction at the Shanghai-based Tongji University's School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

He displayed pictures of Lanzhou, Gansu province and Changsha, Hunan province: both were identical with their crowded high-rises even though the cities were 2,000 kilometers from each other.

"You can barely discern any difference between the cities," Ruan said.

"Cities are growing in height, but they all have the same faces."

The death of the unique

Experts fear Beijing is setting itself up for a similar fate.

As the capital continues its rapid growth, much of the city's cultural heritage is lost or diluted. The city's *hutong*, courtyards, ancient sites and underground cultural relics are falling away at an astonishing pace.

The latest casualty is Gulou, the Drum and Bell Towers.

Once a traditional symbol of Beijing, the area around these towers are scheduled for demolition as part of what the government is trumpeting as a "restoration" plan, the *Beijing News* reported.

The towers, used to keep city time during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, are surrounded by 12 hectares of ancient courtyard homes and winding alleys. Once "restored," the area will be the site of Beijing Time Cultural City, a network of restaurants, shopping malls and parking lots from which officials hope to glean tax revenue.

Experts chastised leaders, saying that a "world city" is defined more by its unique cultural influence than by deadlines and skyscrapers.

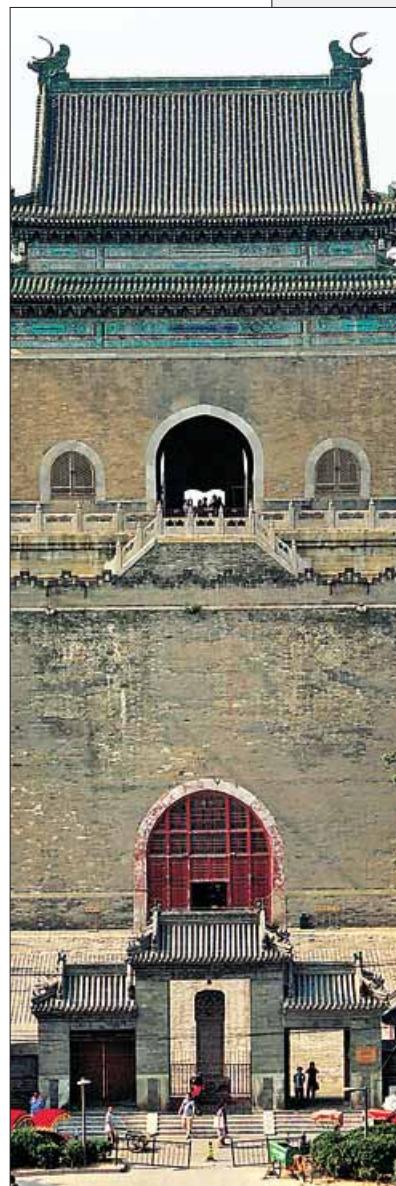
Finding a balance

While experts mourn the slow death of Beijing, some local residents have welcomed the chance to shake off dusty hutong life marked by outdoor plumbing for posh apartments along the city's northern outskirts.

"A complex set of relationships influences urban planning," said Iris Reuther, a German city plan-

ner. "You have the developers, the architects, the municipal authorities and the people, and then you have many social demands. It's hard to satisfy everyone."

Reuther said the city needs both heritage and development, but that with careful planning these need not be contradictory.



The Gulou area, a symbol of old Beijing, will be destroyed.

Foreign city planners speak

Many experts have pointed out the many missteps the capital has made in preserving its heritage. But balancing its unique character with the need to develop is a struggle.

Beijing Today reporters spoke to city planners and mayors from Moscow, Barcelona and Konstanz, each of which has faced similar problems.

Give old buildings new life

Beijing is rife with modern architecture that projects an international image.

That's not necessarily bad, but from the view of an urban planner I have to say smashing historical buildings is not the best way to become a "world city."

One of the best ways to balance heritage and development is to renovate old buildings and put them back into use rather than turning them into museums.

Old buildings should still have life in the modern area. In Moscow we



Maxim V. Perov
Photos by
Han Manman

rarely smash down old factories. It can always be renovated to become a gallery or an office building.

City planning requires a long-term strategy. In Moscow, we learned some hard lessons about this. We were in a hurry to construct new buildings and never considered what future troubles they would cause as the city continued to develop.

- Maxim V. Perov, city planner and vice president of Union of Architects of Russia

Jail irresponsible developers

When thinking about Barcelona's cultural identity, people's first thought is Gaudi.

I can't find any specific identity in Beijing. I think it's more difficult for people to pin down what makes Beijing Beijing. Barcelona made many mistakes during its urban development. I hope Beijing will learn from our mistakes and treasure its heritage.



Xavier Valls Serra

any developer that damaged or destroyed the city's old buildings.

Separating districts into new and old might be a good path for Beijing. You can find a good example in our Ciutat Vella district. During the 1980s, the government preserved more than 100 of its historic buildings while boosting the standard of living of its residents.

Our government also turned the neighboring Poblenou district into an innovative business center capable of attracting global investment.

- Xavier Valls Serra, Barcelona city planner

Let citizens shoulder the responsibility

Konstanz is a small German city with great historical relevance. We have worked very hard to protect our cultural heritage, especially in our city's old town, which still has traditional cathedrals and renovated carefully old houses.

Some businessmen wanted to develop our old town into a tourist destination, but we rejected their plans even though it could have brought in a lot of money. We can't ignore our citizens just to chase profits.



Horst Frank

But I think Beijing's attitude to its heritage is changing, and the government is slowly realizing that preserving the city's character is important.

But Beijing can still do better.

Protecting city heritage should not be the government's job alone. Every citizen needs to take part. The government should consider public opinion and draw on the enthusiasm of the people, many of whom would take pride in cultural protection.

I suggest Beijing let people rent the old buildings rather than leaving them vacant or smashing them. But whoever lives there should be responsible for protecting it.

- Horst Frank, Konstanz mayor

Model cities offer solutions to big Beijing headaches



By Han Manman

"People come to cities for a living and live in cities for a better life," Aristotle wrote in 4th century BC. His words brilliantly illustrate the purpose of the Urban Best Practices Area (UBPA), a first in World Expo history.

Within the 15-hectare area, 76 globally recognized model cities display their solutions to urban ills such as traffic congestion, pollution and resource depletion.

Though different cities face different problems, most city planners can find inspiration at the UBPA exhibition. Below we showcase three innovative ideas that can help Beijing solve its urbanization headaches.

Traffic

Car pooling lightens traffic

Beijing headache

Streets clogged with cars have become a common sight in the capital. In recent years, the municipal government has tried every means to ease the problem, including car bans and staggered work hours.

Though some progress has been made, authorities have their work cut out for them: statistics from the Beijing traffic management bureau show there are now 4.28 million cars on the roads, and the number is increasing by 17,000 units a week.

A report released by the government in April reveals that traffic downtown is worsening. The city sees about five hours of congestion every day this year, compared with

an average of three and a half hours in 2008.

Bremen solution

Car pooling is a new concept in many European countries, and the northwestern German city of Bremen is one of the most successful urban areas to have adopted the practice.

"Most cars run only one hour a day and are parked for the remaining 23 hours," Ulrik Hovelmann, director of the Bremen exhibition, said, adding that if careful arrangements are made, car pooling is easy to do.

A company named Cambio was founded in Bremen just to make such arrangements. It now has 5,500 household-members that share 150 cars. It has 42

branches around the city, and people can book cars by phone, Internet or text message.

"You don't need to buy the car. You don't need to pay for gas. You don't need to pay parking fees," Hovelmann said. "The only thing you need to do is wait for your bill, which they send monthly. It's defi-

nitely cheaper than owning a car."

He said members pay a basic fee of €3 a month plus their mileage use. "By comparison, owning a car costs at least €400 a month in Bremen."

Studies show that if car pooling is adopted in Beijing, 6,400 cars can replace the use of 40,000 indi-

vidually driven cars.

"With this car-sharing system, Beijing could save on parking spaces, which could perhaps be converted into playgrounds, hospitals or houses," Hovelmann said. "And when you are a part of this system, you'll realize just how seldom you really need a car."

Environment

Zero-carbon homes hopes to inspire low-carbon explorations

Beijing headache

Beijing has 17.6 million permanent residents, and the number is expected to rise to 25 million in a decade, according to a government study. This is much higher than the government's previous estimate of 18 million people by 2020. The burgeoning population is putting great pressure on resources like water and energy.

To save energy and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, the government needs to offer economic incentives to encourage individuals and companies

to lead a low-carbon lifestyle.

London solution

The Beddington Zero Energy Development (BedZED) project in southern London is the world's first zero-carbon emission community. The results of BedZED's energy-saving practices is being presented to the world at London's "zero-carbon" pavilion.

Everything you see inside the pavilion is carbon-free: edible tableware and chairs made from used oil barrels; kitchen waste used to generate power and heat; and rooms



Madrid's Bamboo House (left building) is a model of social housing.

CFP Photo

with environmentally-friendly furniture and decorations.

The building maximizes the use of energy from the sun, water and wind. It has a sunroom that transmits energy absorbed from sunlight, while solar photovoltaic panels on the roof convert solar energy into electric energy. The roof also collects rainwater, which is used to flush toilets or water plants, reducing the demand for tap water.

Twenty-two colorful wind caps on the roof twirl with the wind and continuously send fresh air to each

room. At the same time, solar energy and river water are used to cool and dehumidify the fresh air that comes into the rooms.

Chen Shuo, chief coordinator of the pavilion, said that although the pavilion uses British technologies, its materials were all made in China. "We hired Chinese manufacturing companies to build whatever we needed according to drawings and blueprints from Britain," he said.

"We have developed technologies that suit China's conditions. China's climate and industrial

development have made the country more competitive than Britain for building low-carbon architecture," Chen said.

Chen said that zero-carbon communities cannot be built in all Chinese cities because of climate considerations, but he said that Beijing is a good candidate.

He expects the country's first experimental zero-carbon community to appear in two years, adding that the biggest problem is how to make zero-carbon buildings more affordable.

Living

Fashionable social housing for city dwellers

Beijing headache

Many Beijing residents cannot afford to buy a house. To help them, the municipal government has allocated more land for low-cost housing.

But talk of "social housing" makes Chinese people cringe. Their first thought is of cheap, shabby and ugly buildings for indigents.

Madrid solution

The Bamboo House is a model of social housing that originated in southern Madrid. As its name suggests, the five-story building is made of bamboo, which helps control indoor temperature and reduce noise. It is a 21st-century innovation, promoting a low-carbon lifestyle through the use of renewable energy and materials, and a Madrid trademark.

The housing project was designed for the Spanish city's low-income residents and first used in 2000, said Ignacio Nino Perez, director of the Madrid Pavilion. The building can accommodate

88 families and includes a garden and a public area. Each unit has a balcony with a bamboo window, and includes energy-saving technology for recycling water.

Such a fashionable residence is rarely associated with low-income families. Bamboo House, however, is just one example of Madrid's creativity; there are other social housing buildings designed like a sunflower or a castle, Perez said.

"Social housing in Madrid is not synonymous with low quality: it is fashionable, well built and environment-friendly ... a dignified space to live," he said. "Most social housing is sold, some is rented out, and they generally cost three times less than private properties of a similar nature."

Perez said it is possible for Beijing to adopt the Bamboo House design for its social housing projects. But he said adjustments need to be made because the two cities have different climates and urban challenges.

Reporter's note

Expo offers more than stamps

A press card has many privileges at the Expo Garden, the most important of which was quick access to pavilions of choice. Some visitors needed to queue for 5 to 6 hours.

But standing in line was sometimes helpful. It allowed me to eavesdrop on conversations that inspired story ideas. Waiting outside the Swiss Pavilion one day, I listened to some tourists discuss the much-coveted pavilion stamps on their "expo passport."

"How many stamps have you got?" a woman asked a man beside her. "I have 15, what about you?" he said. "I got 41 in two days," she said proudly. People who overheard looked at her admiringly.

Philip Lote, communications officer of the Norwegian Pavilion, told me that some Expo visitors seem to care only about



Many expo visitors wait for hours to get pavilion stamps.

CFP Photo

collecting stamps, so his pavilion stopped issuing them recently.

"We want people to see our pavilion, not to get as many stamps as they can," Lote said. The Danish and Sweden pavilions have done away with their stamps for the same reason. The stamp collection mania among Chinese visitors confused some foreign tourists into asking for stamps on their passports.

"Ninety-five percent of visitors come to the Expo to watch the

excitement, while the rest come to learn," said Tang Zilai, chief designer of the Spell Out (UBPA).

Tang said the UBPA was designed to inform visitors about the latest urban lifestyle innovations, but the public's reception has not been as warm as expected.

Compared with exciting 4-D films, interactive games and free snacks offered by the national pavilions, UBPA could only show replicas, pictures and advanced urban management experience. It may disappoint people who primarily seek excitement, but can be enlightening to those who care about contributing to a more environment-friendly city.

For visitors who only want to collect stamps, take photos or buy souvenirs, there are places like Disneyland. The quadrennial Expo offers more than these.

Made in China at the Cup

Businessmen gamble on African market



South African supporters are blowing vuvuzela to show their support for the home team.

IC Photo

By Huang Daohen

Local fans may have been disappointed by China's absence at the South Africa World Cup, but businessmen have something to cheer about.

Many Chinese companies are carefully positioning themselves to pounce on the finals and semi-finals, grabbing sponsorship deals that they hope will springboard their products into new markets.

Trumpets born in China

If those buzzing vuvuzela blown at every goal are marring your World Cup experience, don't expect sympathy from Chinese businessman Wu Yijun.

During the first quarter of the year, Wu's Ninghai Jiying Plastics Manufacturing Company in Zhejiang Province produced and shipped more than 1 million of the plastic trumpets to South Africa.

Unlike competing manufacturers in Yiwu and Shenzhen, Wu's Jiying is small and unknown. It does not even have a Website.

This World Cup has been an opportunity for Wu to expand his overseas market.

"We started making products for soccer fans years ago, but the orders used to be very small," Wu said.

Things turned around last September when Wu received a massive order for vuvuzela.

Now Wu is requiring that all orders be pre-paid in full, a rarity in international trade. Even with the new limitations, his company has been producing round the clock as it struggles to fill orders.

According to various media reports, 90 percent of the vuvuzela sold in South Africa are made in China.

Wu said only four to five companies produce the trumpets, and most are located in Zhejiang's Yiwu and Guangdong's Shantou.

The website of competing company Guangdong Guangda Plastic Toy Factory has started posting World Cup pictures on its homepage to promote its trumpets.

Wu said the World Cup market had huge potential, and that the trumpet market would not fade away after the World Cup ends next month.

"We believe the market for vuvuzelas will only expand after the World Cup. It will introduce the instrument to new people around the world," he said.

Leading African business

Wu's experience with vuvuzela goes back much further than when orders flooded in last November.

His factory first produced the trumpets in 2001, hoping to push it as a gimmick at the 2002 World Cup.

After that failure, he tried again at the 2006 World Cup in Germany. It was only at the South Africa World Cup that he found a huge market for the noisemakers.

The sudden success may have something to do with the inroads Chinese businessmen have made into Africa, Wu said. He could not remember how many times he visited South Africa, where he met Zhao Yanpei, a Chinese businessman now operating a case and bed factory in Johannesburg.

Chinese businessmen bound for Africa can count on full support from their compatriots as soon as they step off the airplane, Wu said.

With Zhao's help, Wu quickly secured several orders for his trumpets.

But when Zhao arrived on the wild continent 20 years ago, it was a different world. He was one of the first Chinese nationals from the mainland to emigrate to South Africa.

"At the time, life was hard for businessmen like Zhao," Wu said.

Zhao started his import business as a street vendor, and has since created his own products and established a famous local brand.

Many Chinese factory bosses started out as street vendors.

According to data from the Chinese Consulate General in South Africa, many Chinese businessmen have risen to prominence in South Africa over the last 20 years.

Most operate factories and mines and control assets valued at as much as 1 million yuan.

"South Africans, especially the lower classes, depend on Chinese businessmen," Wu said.

In Zhao's factory located southwest of Johannesburg, Wu said he saw dozens of local workers working on the production line. The factory employed up to 120 workers and some of the 80 current workers had been working there for 10 years.

"The Chinese factories have provided a lot of employment opportunities for locals," he said.

Market watch

Branding essential in new markets

From giant state-owned corporations to a host of small businesses, Chinese companies have opened a new frontier for Chinese products in Africa.

With developed economies like the US and European Union being crushed by debt, many Chinese exporters are looking to emerging markets like South Africa, said Zhao Xiao, a professor of economics at the University of Science and Technology Beijing.

Emerging markets are in need of reasonably priced goods to expand infrastructure and consumption, and made-in-China is a perfect fit, Zhao said.

But Chinese businessmen should not be satisfied with the short-term gains from the World Cup, he said.

With vuvuzela sales, Chinese businessmen are seeing only a fraction of the profit margins.

Vuvuzela is priced between the equivalent of 20 and 55 yuan; Chinese producers get 5 percent of this. "Most of the profits go into the pockets of overseas distributors," Zhao said.

"That's what happens when you don't have a brand name behind it," he said.

Chinese products may be capable of competing with top quality goods, Zhao said.

But without a brand name they cannot overcome their reputation for being cheap.

Chinese companies have been producing for powerful overseas brands for decades, supplying some of the world's top quality goods without ever being noticed.

The appearance of Chinese products at the World Cup may be a good start in building recognition.

"I never notice where a product comes from, but I do care about the reputation of its brand," Zhao said.

Non-bank payment agents to be licensed

By Chu Meng

Alipay, a subsidiary of Alibaba Group, has been recognized by the central bank as a non-bank third-party payment business.

The company is now applying for a license to conduct non-bank transactions, said Jack Ma, chairman and CEO of Alibaba Group, Monday.

The People's Bank of China said Monday that non-bank payment service providers must be licensed to conduct third-party payment transactions.

Existing companies must apply for a license within one year after the policy takes effect on September 1.

Under the new rules, companies are required to report their commission rates to the central bank. Non-bank payment service providers must also have a registered capital of 100 million yuan for a nationwide business license and must have been making profit for two successive years.

Service providers must also have a three-year spotless record; those found to have committed illegal activities or provided payment services to criminals will be denied a license.

Alipay, founded by Alibaba Group, is the country's largest third-party payment service provider. It announced March 14 that it had 300 million users.

"The new regulatory rules will provide active monitoring and regulation of third-party payment transaction providers and will help to curb illegal activities," said Song Fangxiu, a professor of economics at Peking University, Wednesday.

Song said that aside from the big-name service providers Alipay, Tenpay and Chinapay, there are as many as 100 small- and medium-sized third-party payment companies that have opened during the past five years.

"The nation's online payment market has grown at more than 100 percent annually during the past five years. Total transactions reached 555 billion yuan in 2009, up almost 136 percent from 2008," Song said.

But limited regulation has created a hotbed of problems.

Some online payment companies have been accused of making money through illegal activities.

Online payment agency 99Bill Corp allegedly helped a gambling company collect 3 billion yuan. One of its senior officials has been detained.

"The license rules are fair for all online payment companies," Song said.

"Since companies have to be profitable for at least two successive years, the policy will restrict entry of newcomers to the market," she said.

Foreign-funded companies will be required to operate under separate rules. Song said she expects the rules to be more strict once they are drafted.

China becomes fan base for North Korean soccer team

By Wang Yu

China not having a team at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa has not dampened enthusiasm for the competition. Fans have channeled their passion into cheering for star teams like Brazil, Argentina, Italy and England.

But few people predicted that North Korea – which is at the bottom of the 32-team ranking – would win over many Chinese soccer fans after its first match against Brazil June 15. North Korea played an impressive 90 minutes against the five-time Cup champion, yielding two goals and breaking the Brazilian defense in the 88th minute.

The Koreans may have lost, but Chinese people considered it a “loss with honor” because the players showed tremendous spirit and courage in front of a legendary soccer team. According to a survey by huanqiu.com, more than 90 percent of respondents voted North Korea the “best Asian team” in the first round, edging out long-time favorites Japan and South Korea.

Jong Tae Se, the North Koreans’ forward who cried while listening to his country’s anthem before their match against Brazil, has become a celebrity in China. Jong is a third-generation South Korean who was born in Nagoya, Japan. In a surprising move, he traded his South Korean citizenship for a North Korean one, despite not having lived in the North.

Jong’s Chinese fans have nicknamed him “people’s Rooney,” since his style on the field is similar to English star Wayne Rooney’s.

But Jong’s appearance on the World Cup stage was short-lived. His team lost its second match against Portugal 7-0 Monday. It became the biggest win so far and left the North Koreans with no chance to advance to the next round.



The tears of North Korea forward Jong Tae Se moved many during the match against Brazil on June 15.

IC Photos



A soccer fan from Fujian Province salutes the North Korean team.

Comment

Spirit can never win over skill

The North Korean team’s spirit was moving, but so was the Portuguese team’s since they made seven goals. You can never expect a weak team – despite having a strong will – to win against a rival on a much higher level.

I admire the Koreans’ spirit, but skill is what makes you a winner on the field. Chinese fans think our soccer team lacks spirit, but if we emulate the North Koreans, we won’t make progress; our playing will only move backwards. Chinese soccer has many problems and spirit cannot solve them all.

— Li Chengpeng, sports critic
Proximity and mystery

I think Chinese fans support the North Korean team because first, they are geographically close to us and their country is similar to what China was like 40 years ago. People in a sense see them as one of us. Secondly, it is the most mysterious among all the 32 teams and people are curious to see how far they can go.

There are rumors that players will be sent to dig coal if they don’t win. Jong Tae Se’s history is also interesting to people who like gossip. We are judging the North Korean team in exactly the same way Westerners assessed us many years ago.

— He Yuxin, magazine editor
Loser culture

The North Korean team is a way through which Chinese fans can live vicariously: the Chinese team did not make it to the competition, so fans weren’t going to be as happy watching the Cup. In most people’s minds, the North Korean team doesn’t belong in the global soccer system and it is fun to see how it can screw up the big-name teams. But to me, supporting it is nothing but a reflection of a loser culture.

— Heymy, journalist

Authorities steps up security measures for World Cup

By Janet Xiao

Beijing authorities recently stepped up security measures in Wudaokou in light of the ongoing World Cup festivities. These measures include assigning more police units to patrol neighborhoods populated by foreigners. Bilingual law enforcers are handing out fliers at bars, encouraging soccer fans to “act morally,” drink less and minimize how much they inconvenience others, Qianlong.com reported.

These preventative efforts reveal municipal authorities’ apprehension of foreigners getting involved in violence. But reality is the other way around: in recent

years, foreigners have more often been the victims of violence rather than the perpetrators.

Foreigners largely consider Beijing safe, but over the past few years, the number of violent crimes targeting them – like robbery and sexual assault – have been on the rise. A common occurrence are bar scuffles in which a group of people, sometimes including foreigners themselves, will incapacitate a foreign individual and take his or her wallet, cell phone and other valuables.

Serious crimes against foreigners are rare, but petty crimes do occur, the British Embassy said.

Comment

Beijing comparatively safe

For as long as the oldest China hands can remember, Beijing has stood superior to any comparable Western metropolis in one very appreciable statistic: lack of violence. [Considering] the context of anti-Chinese violence in history ... at least since the “Opening Up,” anti-foreign violence has been remarkably rare in China.

— Ernie, blogger on Chinaexpat.com

Run away quickly

I don’t think the World Cup will cause any additional violence. But I do think it’s relatively common for foreigners to be targets. The situation is pretty bad in Sanlitun. A word

of advice for foreigners who get into sticky situations: do not make the first move and try to get out of there as quickly as possible.

— Wayne King, teacher and owner of King’s Bar

It’s about the money

When violence occurs, I don’t think it’s about hate – at least not in Beijing. Foreigners are targets for robberies because they are perceived to have money. My foreign friends and I don’t really go to sketchy places. Plus, between the Olympics and the World Expo, I think crime is more isolated now, since the government has really locked the cities down.

— Hansen Gu, American business student



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Family Package

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WORKS COLLECTION PERIOD: May 25~ September 10, 2010 DRAWING THEME: Tennis stars in previous China Open AGE OF PARTICIPANTS: 4-12.

SIZE OF WORKS:

Works for the contest shall not be smaller than A4 (210 x 297mm) in size, not larger than A3 (297 x 420mm).

Note: A participant shall make a note on the back of the work submitted, noting the name of work, name, gender and age of painter, name and contact of parents as well as detailed home address (including postcode).

PRIZES:

Participants will be classified into three groups: infant (aged 4-6), junior (aged 7-9) and pupil (aged 10-12).

There are 1 first prize, 2 second prizes, 4 third prizes and 10 excellence prizes for each group; and one grand prize will be selected out of all participants (Only one out of all participants regardless of groups).

PRIZE SETTING:

Grand Prize: Awards worth **RMB2,000**; First Prize: Awards worth **RMB1,000**; Second Prize: Awards worth **RMB500**; Third Prize: Awards worth **RMB300**; Excellence Prize: Awards worth **RMB100**.

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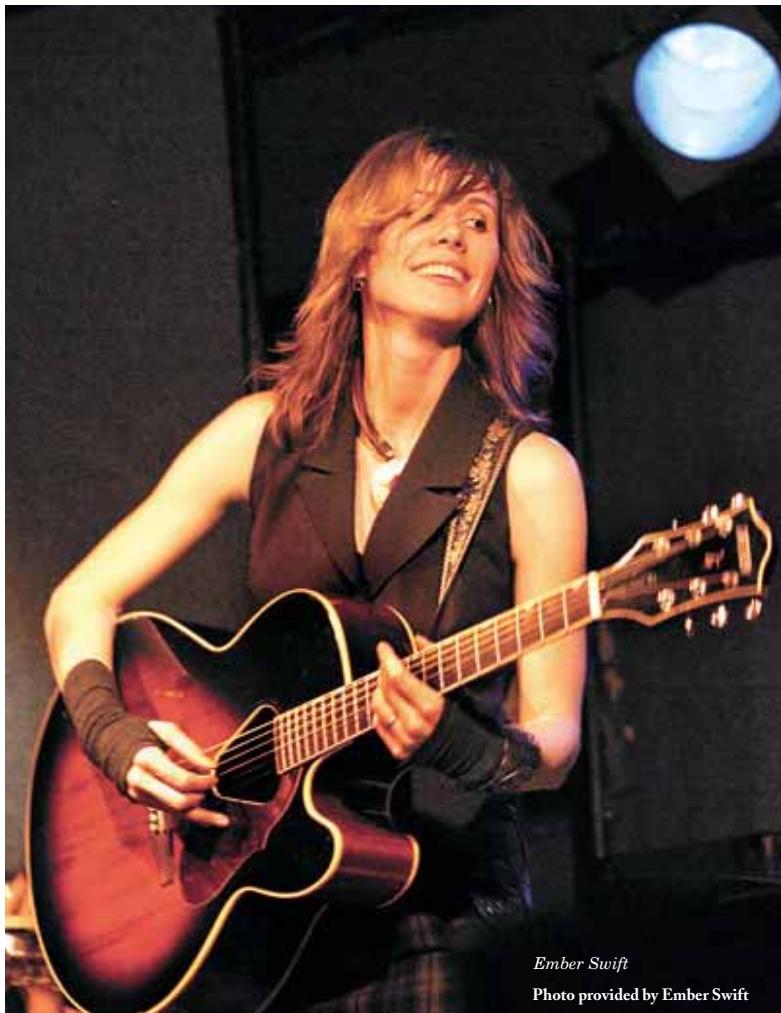


Host Broadcaster



Website Operator

Canadian musician finds new direction in China



Ember Swift

Photo provided by Ember Swift

By Li Zhixin

Ember Swift, an independent Canadian artist, is wild about Chinese folk music. Last year, she recorded her first Chinese album *Lentic*. Though she has much to learn about the language and culture, she is determined to make her mark on the country's music scene.

Last July 13, she serenaded the patrons of Jianghu Bar with songs from *Lentic*.

Swift moved to Beijing in April 2007. Before that she wrote music and performed in North America, Australia and France.

"That time, all I knew was to succeed and to earn more money, and my pace of life was very fast, just like the meaning of my English name: fire and speed," she said.

Swift decided to slow down and adopted a new philosophy. "Healthy development of body and soul is more important to me than money or making a name," she said.

"Here, I've learned to slow my pace and keep my body and mind in harmony."

Swift developed an interest in East Asian culture at the University of Toronto. She became fascinated with China while researching women's role in Chinese music in the last century. "I learned about various Chinese musical styles and became very interested in Chinese folk," she said.

In recent years, more and more Western pop musicians are including Chinese words in their songs. Swift frowns on the practice, saying it does not convey the beauty and essence of the language. "Most record companies and singers only want to get a bigger market share in China ... after all the Chinese market is huge," she said.

Swift prefers her music to be

a means of cultural exchange. "I want to present Chinese wisdom in my music. I hope to enable more understanding of Chinese culture by Canadian and other Western listeners and conversely, the same increased understanding of Western culture by Chinese listeners," she said.

In *Lentic*, she blends traditional Chinese instruments with modern electronic sound.

Swift began studying Confucianism, Taoism and Zen when she moved to Beijing. "I felt uncomfortable when I first sang to a Chinese audience several years ago because they didn't understand English. So I decided to improve my Mandarin and deepen my understanding of Chinese culture."

Swift was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1974 and has been writing songs and performing since she was 9. Her recording career began in 1996 with the release of a self-titled album. Since then, she has released 10 albums through Few'll Ignite Sound, company she founded in 2007.

Swift said her company resists the typical path of "signing other artists," guided by the philosophy that performers should "own" their art. But it acts as a resource center for musicians and bands across the globe, and helps encourage members who want to remain independent.

"It's about fostering community, sharing resources, building activist networks, resisting the greed of capitalism and being true to our beliefs, political platforms and personal integrity," Swift said. "No one at Few'll Ignite Sound wants to be 'famous.' It is about real people who champion artistic sustainability and down-to-earth, grassroots ideals."

Norwegian musicians on a mission to 'Go West'

By Chu Meng

Norwegian musicians are trying to help bridge the culture gap between eastern and western Chinese regions by getting involved in Go West, a program that sends jazz musicians to cities seldom visited by artists.

The program was initiated by the Norwegian Embassy in 2009, and is headed by Jon Campbell, drummer of the Beijing-based rock band RandomK(e).

Campbell, a native of Canada, moved to Beijing a decade ago. He has since built a reputation as a musician that performs at bars and universities in lesser-known cities, off China's "musical highway."

"Many people have mistaken me for a Norwegian since I'm working with the Norwegian Embassy on this program," Campbell said. "The reason I

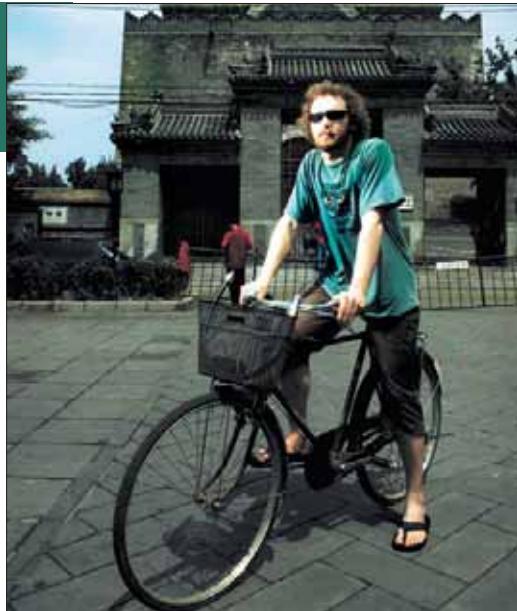
accepted this assignment is that the Embassy and I share the same purpose in terms of giving university students in western Chinese cities more access to modern musical forms and international musicians.

"They have the right to know diverse artistic forms in their youth, otherwise, how can they figure out what they really want to do in the future?"

In the past decade, China has seen an increasing number of shows by foreign artists from a range of musical backgrounds.

Most of these performances happen in clubs and theaters in major cities. But much of the country has been left out, and has had little opportunity to experience live music of an international caliber.

Go West has proven that jazz music has a strong following across the country, and has the ability to inspire audiences from diverse backgrounds. Each performance, from the largest theater to the smallest classroom, emphasizes cultural interaction, transforming listeners from observers into participant.



Jon Campbell has been living and performing in Beijing for 10 years.
Photo provided by Jon Campbell

Embroidery gives Ningxia women hope for a future

By Zhang Dongya

"Embroidery is the basis of a young girl's education, something every woman in our village can do," Ding Ting, a craftswoman from Ningxia, said at the closure of a Yishu 8 Gallery exhibition last Friday. "I never thought it could fetch so much money."

The exhibition, "Textile Dreams," designed by Chinese artist Wen Fang and embroidered by a group of women in Ningxia, sold for more than 100,000 yuan after being displayed for 20 days. Half of the revenue will be transferred to the female workers of the Hundred Flowers of Magaozhuang, supported by Women of Ningxia (Femmes Du Ningxia), a French NGO that helps Ningxia women turn a profit from embroidery.

"I am trying to find a way to do more for people in destitute and isolated people," Wen said, "other than producing artwork that uses them as central characters."

Wen, 34, has previously focused her artwork on migrant workers, orphans and the homeless. "They made me successful, but I always felt ashamed," she said. "I want to do more for them, beyond just raising questions and making critiques through my works."

Wen got to know a group of female embroiderers in Ningxia from Women of Ningxia and soon began her project. She wanted to create art using the locals' embroidery and then pay them back after selling the final products.

The project started earlier this year in Xihaiyu, the driest area in Ningxia, with seven impoverished counties participating. One of the counties was Tongxin County, where Women of Ningxia is located.

Wen said there is very little economic development there. Most women do not have jobs, leaving them at home to take care of children and the elderly. Without an independent income,



One of the exhibited artworks – "My Airplane" – and its crafts
Photo provided by Yishu 8 Gallery

women are kept at an inferior social position, and many suffer domestic abuse.

"They are good at embroidery, passed down from generation to generation, but their products are too traditional – they aren't accepted by modern society – so the market is very small," Wen said.

Wen spent more than a month working with members of Hundred Flowers of Magaozhuang in

Tongxin. As many as 15 crafts-women participated in the production of the artwork.

Wen brought materials from Beijing, including cotton, hemp and gold thread, because "local cloth is not that good for creating art."

They created 23 pieces, all by hand. The pieces mix modern designs with local traditional elements. A set of works called Couronne consists of two garlands

made with dozens of shoe-pads – the most representative of local embroidery.

Craftswomen are paid by the hour, and they also share a portion of the exhibition's revenue.

"It widens our views and it increases our income," Ding said. "We earned over 1,000 yuan within a month of working with Wen."

Ding, 34, from Tongxin's Liumiao Village, joined the Hundred Flowers of Magaozhuang when it was founded in 2007. She is now in charge of the association. Ding said she had no previous jobs before accepting a position in the association, only relying on her husband. They embroidered things like shoe-pads, handbags and earmuffs at home, but only for daily use.

After joining the association, Ding received training in management and marketing. Despite only having a junior high diploma, she had a knack for learning. In Beijing, Ding, along with the association's accountant, will receive further training at the Practical Skills Training Center of Rural Women in Changping District, the first non-profit school established for rural women.

At the exhibition, Wen used handmade embroidery to create artworks linked to sustainable development. There were five pieces embroidered with red silk thread representing pervasive garbage and litter. The pieces all play on the strong contrast between modernity and tradition, mass production and traditional handicraft, garbage and art.

Wen said she would continue to cooperate with the crafts-women in Hundred Flowers and consider bringing all the women to the exhibition next time.

"Art is about resolving problems through creative ways – that is my understanding of art," Wen said. "I hope the project can spare future generations of women hardship and poverty."

Event

Jewelry-making course

Shou Designers Jewelry Academy holds a weekend workshop for jewelry-designing lovers. Instructor Hannah Deacon will teach students how to put together a necklace, bracelet, earrings and many more easy-to-assemble designs using a variety of techniques.

Where: Jamaica Blue Café at Park Avenue, 4-3 Chaoyanggongyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District

When: June 26, 3-5 pm

Tel: 13691264242

Cost: 600 yuan

Networking cocktail

Hosted by Global China Connection (GCC) Beijing with hopes of extending its platform to students and young professionals in China and providing opportunities for individuals with different backgrounds but shared aspirations to connect. GCC, headquartered in New York City, is the world's largest student-run non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together the future leaders of China and the international community.

Where: JW Marriott's Loong Bar, China Central Place, 83 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 26, 7:30-10 pm

Tel: 13241416179

Cost: 100 yuan for pre-registered attendees, 150 yuan for day-of attendees

Studio-X Beijing symposium

The symposium themed "after THE BIG event" is organized by the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, in collaboration with the University of Queensland Technology. At the symposium, participants will address the complex interplay that results from design innovations initiated by major international events and their impact on the future of the city, professional practice, research and teaching.

Where: Studio-X Beijing, A103, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: June 27, 3-5 pm

Tel: 13811738783

Cost: Free

Charity bachelor auction

This auction will sell off eight local bachelors. The highest bidder will win a dinner date and a goodie bag stuffed with over 800 yuan's worth of vouchers. Auction proceeds go to Tse Reh Orphanage, helping ethnic minority orphans in Qinghai Province left in need by the recent earthquake.

Where: Face Bar, 26 Dongcaoyuan, Gongti Nanlu, Chaoyang District

When: June 26, 9-11:30 pm

Tel: 15910908891

Cost: 100 yuan includes a glass of wine

(By Liang Meilan)

TED fans discuss education reform

By Liang Meilan

Beijing fans of the influential TED talks (Technology, Entertainment and Design Conference) gathered at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art last Saturday to watch TED videos related to education reform.

Organized by TEDtoChina, this was the first event to bring together local and expat fans of TED. TEDtoChina is an independent project, started in 2008, committed to spreading information about TED and promoting the TED community in China.

"We set up this non-profit project with the hope of encouraging and supporting social innovations in China by introducing elite ideas from around the world and inspiring local creativities,"

said Ellen Cheng, the moderator.

A video of a speech titled "Do schools kill creativity?", given by creativity expert Sir Ken Robinson, was presented. In the video, Robinson lays out convincing arguments about how schools sap creativity and argues that we should reverse the trend.

TED enthusiast and guest speaker Kris Bartkus, an education expert and graduate of Harvard University, commented on Robinson's logic and initiated related topic on education reform.

He took "risk-taking" as the most important skill that students should learn in school, a concept that is seldom taught.

"Someone who is a risk-taker is someone who is willing to have an original idea and execute that idea independently,

even if there is opposition to it or it's unclear how successful it will be," he said.

Bartkus said the objective grading system in most schools is crazy and hopeless. "This system of objectivity, beautiful as it is, ends when we leave school," he said. "If you have a good idea in school, the teacher will give you a good grade. But in real life, no one will care about your good idea. There are no people whose job it is to evaluate ideas. There is no government ministry in charge of evaluating ideas."

In Bartkus's opinion, the most obvious conflict for educators is between trying to balance the desire to objectively evaluate students and the desire to prepare them for situations where they will not be objectively evaluated.

He proposed having classes that involve interaction with the outside world. "In the class, students are given a difficult, open-ended task that involves advertising some idea in the real world," he said. "The task can be something like asking an important government official to give a speech, or starting a micro-business. At the end of the semester, there would be an objective evaluation of how well the tasks were completed."

Bartkus, who works for Sophos Academy Group in Beijing, a company aimed at introducing the Western education philosophy, said this plan should be adopted by the Chinese education system, which over emphasizes objective grading.

Surfing classes for beginners commence



Wang Hongbin, founder of a surfing club, organizes surfing trips to Sanya and Hawaii.

Photo provided by Wang Hongbin

By Annie Wei

Although China earned a lot of gold medals during the 2008 Olympics, there are some sports in which you'll find no Chinese athletes – like surfing.

That might change soon. With interest on the rise and an increasing number of places to find good waves, like Sanya, Hainan Province, there is a new demand for surfing.

Wang Hongbin, 40, originally from Inner Mongolia and a former journalist at *Beijing Youth Daily* and *Esquire* and founder of the sports club Fitbank, is a go-to source about surfing in China. He teaches yearly class in Beijing.

Many people, especially those who have no surfing experience, are scared of the sport because they don't know what to do. Wang's classes – taught just three times in a gym pool – teach the basic skills necessary to get out and catch a wave.

"My class can get anyone standing on the board on the first day," he said. "They gain

confidence on the first day. On the second day, they experience the tough parts and on the third they learn to enjoy the sport."

Wang's confidence is the result of personal experience. His own first encounter with surfing resulted in failure.

In 2008, Wang met surfing pros from the US in Shanghai and spent two days trying to surf with them in Sanya.

"For the entire two days, I could not stand on the board, and I was frustrated," he said. But Wang believed in his natural ability. While at Beijing Sports University, Wang was honored as a bodybuilder and gymnast at the national level.

The next year, Wang went to Sanya alone, hanging around the beach and watching how the experts there surfed.

"I was a sports education major, so I quickly figured out how it works," Wang said. He ended up designing a surfing teaching class and now hopes to promote it in gyms nationwide.

Enrollees can use any of

Wang's 15 customized surfboards, which were all tested this summer at Sanya. His class also provides apparel to protect one's skin.

The fun of surfing, Wang said, is "it gives you the happiness you got when you were a child and received your dream toy. When you stand on a wave and move forward, it feels like that."

There are physical benefits of surfing, too. Wang said the sport has cured his long-term back problems stemming from a herniated lumber disc.

Wang has a theory on how surfing helps: lying on the board, swimming to the wave, quickly standing and then surfing involves a series of intense moves. "Surfing is the perfect sport, combining aerobics and anaerobics," Wang said.

Also, surfing is good for shaping the body. After spending 81 days in Sanya this year, Wang discovered after taking a photo for *Esquire* that his muscles had never looked better. "I did not have such

toned muscles even when I was a college sports athlete."

One of his students, a 47-year-old business man, lost 25 kilograms of weight, from 80 to 55, thanks to surfing in Hainan.

Wang's class is scheduled to start in two weeks. Interested parties should contact Wang directly at snowbank@163.com.

Apart from surfing, Wang's company, Snowbank and Fitbank, offers equipment for several extreme sports. In addition, the company publishes *Speed Ski and Snowboard* magazine, the only of its kind in China. It also has a surfing club and offers recovery therapy courses, like *tai chi* and yoga.

Wang even organizes trips to Wudangshan, Hubei Province, for *tai chi*, and yoga in India. For surfing, his trip destinations include Hawaii and California, Okinawa in Japan, Peru, Australia, France and Bali, Indonesia.

To find out more about the surfing club, visit Wang's blog: hi.baidu.com/snowbank_8fitbank.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiying@ynet.com

My big wedding day is coming and I'm looking for a place that prints wedding invitations. Do you know of a good printer or shop that sells them made-to-order?

Check Imwedding, a company that provides all kinds of wedding supplies, including invitation cards (four different types), candy boxes and flowers. They also offer invitation printing services. Experienced designers there can customize your products. But be warned that the workers do not speak English. Visit imwedding.com or call 8477 0378 for more information.

I've brought my iPhone from the US and I need to have it unlocked so that I can use it here. Is there a person or service that can help me unlock my iPhone for international use?

You can find many mobile phone service stores with unlocking services in Zhongguancun, the technology hub of Haidian District, but many of them don't do iPhone unlocking. Among those with such services, we suggest Chuangyuanhongsheng, a professional iPhone repair company at Room 1001, 10/F, TOP Electronics City (Dinghaodianzhangcheng), 3 Haidian Dajie, Haidian District. It specializes in repair and maintenance of iPhone software and hardware, unlocking and upgrading. The store's service hotline is 8248 8362.

I sculpt wood and clay as a hobby and I've left most of my sculpting tools back in Australia. Where can I find sculpting tools and supplies in Beijing?

Try searching the stores in and around the China Central Academy of Fine Arts. The school is located at 8 Huajiadi Nanjie, Chaoyang District. We also suggest online suppliers. You can call a vendor at 15001281198 or visit shop35606621.taobao.com.

I want to find a swimming pool near the Dongzhimen subway station. I am searching for inexpensive pools in hotels or gyms. Also, I want to learn freediving, so I need a buddy or coach that can teach me.

Powerhouse Gym, located right next to the Dongzhimen subway station, has a high-quality and affordable pool. Powerhouse is located inside Ginza Ball (exit C from the subway) at the Kenzo Center on floor C. Inside, you'll find a 25-meter pool, and most of the time it's not busy at all. Qualified personal trainers are available at relatively low prices. The diving board there is about 1.2 meters, suitable for beginners. Contact them at 5139 6208.

(By Liang Meilan)

World music education conference comes to Beijing

By Chu Meng

The International Society of Music Education (ISME) World Conference 2010, a top level academic event among music educators and young musicians worldwide, is coming to China for the first time in its 29-year history.

The six-day World Conference, beginning August 1, will be held at Beijing's China National Convention Center and the China Conservatory of Music, one of the top music institutions in the country. Over 7,000 music education professionals and performing groups of young artists from 56 countries will

attend the conference.

ISME was formed at a conference convened by UNESCO in 1953 in order to stimulate music education as an integral part of general education.

"An ISME World Conference is more like a fair than a conventional conference," said Hakan Lundstrom, president of ISME. "This has been ISME's main concern over the past decades and continues to be our most important source of motivation."

In the years that followed its formation, ISME gradually evolved into a worldwide service platform for music educators who

want their profession to be taken seriously by educators in other disciplines, by politicians and policymakers, and by international organizations that promote culture, education, conservation and the durable development of cultural heritage.

Lundstrom said the conference will cover every possible aspect of music education and learning.

"Uniquely, it will be a chance for Chinese music educators and Chinese music performing groups to give international musicians some fresh air, both of traditional Chinese musical elements and the Chinese way of accept-

ing music from other parts of the world," the president said.

Academic activities include paper presentations, round-table symposia, workshops, class lesson demonstrations, concerts and an exhibition of instruments and teaching materials. More information is available at isme.org.

With the theme "harmony," music educators will discuss how to enhance communication and understanding between different nations, cultures, genders and groups. They will also discuss how to promote harmonious global development through music.



By Wang Yu

D-Park in 798 Art District was recently the site of INTRO festival, one of the year's most brilliant parties, where thousands danced during the day.

The electronic music stages – long an essential part of native music festivals – were packed. But that's not necessarily a sign that the scene has reached critical mass.

While electronic music may share the stage with Chinese rock, rave culture has yet to take root. When few listeners can tell the difference between a remixed pop song and a hit by the Chemical Brothers, it's hard to say electronic music has made an impact.

The crew of Acupuncture Records has twice organized the INTRO Festival.

Photo provided by Acupuncture Records



Photo provided by Zuge



Photo provided by Howie Lee

As electric musicians, Zuge and Howie Lee found inspiration through their experience of playing in rock bands.



Photo provided by Acupuncture Records

A rallying point

Three weeks after the INTRO festival, organizers at Acupuncture Records are back at work. At Solana, they are preparing for a new event with *Bazaar* magazine. And Lantern, the label's night club, is broadcasting all the World Cup matches this month.

To please this more mainstream audience, the label's techno lineup is being shelved in favor of remixed Lady Gaga songs that are more recognizable for ordinary listeners.

"It is an important part of our business that keeps the label alive. Sponsors have money, the PR companies give them suggestions and we make sure the whole process goes well," says Wang Miao, managing director of Acupuncture Records.

"The PR guys are not experienced at organizing such events, but making a party is what we're best at."

It's hard to imagine, but Wang was a black metal fan before friends led her to an electronic party in 2003. Tired of the heavy guitars and dark lyrics, she found a new world in techno.

Though many music fans consider techno obscure and devoid of real melody, Wang says the musicians' emotion shine with each slight change of the arrangement.

Wang and several electronic musicians started the label at the end of 2008. But its roots go back to 2006, when the crew first began organizing parties. The most impressive party was held in an old warehouse a DJ found in the suburbs – just like what rave

used way back then.

Last year, Wang quit her job at the label.

From the 1990s, more people really has an illusion. The truth is we are barely

Acupuncture manages, even though it's being specifically pressured. The label has a weekend schedule to fill the club.

"Since the attention, more and more of them can be made. Computer, we can express the

Beijing has motors tend to their own scenes have electronic music.

And the die hard.

Scene

Though cliques are frayed, have made



Photo provided by Howie Lee

ick when, before the first INTRO, Wang e media to listeners, more and have become aware that Beijing e media in electronic music scene.

ink that success has also created that the scene is getting stronger, both the label and the industry out of their diapers," Wang says. "ture produces, organizes and giving lectures on occasion, read so this has put a lot of finance and her colleagues.

ng fans to guarantee great les, but Wang is still struggling to live schedule on weekdays. e festivals we've had a lot of many musicians overseas have sent nos," Wang says. Electronic music e by just one person in front of the which makes it easier for artists to ir ideas.

as a history of performers and proing to exclusively work with people ciques. But the rock and electric something in common: many elec- cians come out of the rock scene. old habits they brought with them

image

the partnership between different agile, Wang and her colleagues progress.

"Two years ago 80 percent of the people at our parties were expats," Wang says. "Chinese regulars have evened it out. On some nights we draw even more locals than expats."

Zuge, a former member of the electronic group Zig Zag, was led onto electronic music in 1999 when he listened to the Chemical Brothers. In 2004, his rock band disbanded, leaving the artist time to focus on electronic music.

"Labels like Shanshu, Yan and Antidote have also made great strides for the scene during the past five years," he says. "The music is still a niche interest, so their patience and energy are really important."

Promoters and artists say this kind of music is for mature listeners – not for teens. But Wang says the audiences are getting younger. Twenty years ago, when rock was introduced to China, young people looked to it as fashionable.

"Without listeners who understand this kind of music, the scene won't grow. Most of the Chinese people see disc jockeys as the guys who spin pop at a night club, not as artists who make electronic music," Wang says.

"I think an important reason [the scene lags behind rock] is that rock demands less of an artist's technique," says Howie Lee, an artist who has been creating electronic music on his computer since middle school. "Electronic musicians are like sound engineers. They can't realize their ideas if they can't manipulate the machines to make their ideal tones."

Lee, a recording graduate of Communi-

cation University of China, says there is a lack of professional electronic music education in China.

At the Berklee College of Music in Boston, students can spend four years learning to generate inspirational tones; Chinese schools, by contrast, teach only basic operation of sound editing software.

The private disc jockey schools in China hope to fill the gap, but most of the students prefer to learn a skill like cooking or car repair, and drop out after learning to play music on the machines.

Acupuncture has a new approach: master-apprentice relationships where popular disc jockeys pass on their trade to aspiring artists.

"I believe it only takes one person to sort everything out and do what Cui Jian did for rock 20 years ago. With an idol – or icon – we can easily spread the right image," Wang says.

"The small size of our scene means there is little competition. It takes a lot of people creating music before you can have a world-class front man stand out," Zuge says.

Going international

Last year, Wang traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, with Weng Weng, Terry Tu and ELVIS.T.

ELVIS.T played on the techno stage of the South America Music Conference, one of the biggest electronic music festivals in South America. They then flew to Berlin and Barcelona, where they played at several more venues.

During the events in Buenos Aires, the whole city became a venue for disc jockeys

and dancers. The organizers listened to ELVIS.T's music in a club before the event and decided to have him play the finale at the festival. He was preceded by many big names he had admired for a long time.

Overseas tours help to build a label's name but strain its finances.

"It's easy to arrange a tournament in Europe because we have many contacts there," Wang says. "But it's meaningless to play in small venues there when no one will show up. The money it would generate wouldn't even cover airfare, so we are only accepting invitations to music festivals."

INTRO festival attracted foreign promoters and labels to Beijing, many of whom were open to the Chinese scene.

"When I talked with people at some European labels about our tour, they didn't say it directly but I could sense they didn't think we were good enough to play," Wang says. "I think it's natural. They created this kind of music, so it's no surprise they would judge us so harshly."

"What matters is we're growing."

Zuge lives quietly, switching his identities from office to studio every day. Howie Lee works as a freelancer, which leaves him enough time to be with music.

"Goethe said, 'He who possesses art and science has religion,' and I believe it," Zuge says. "Electric music was born to be a tool to record the relationship between art and science."

"My belief in music has opened a door for me to experience the world."

Linguist shares tales of living and learning in China

By Janet Xiao

For readers accustomed to more austere discourses on China, Deborah Fallows' *Dreaming in Chinese* offers a colorful, humorous scrutiny of the country's language and people.

Her memoir gives readers a peek into a newcomer's life in urban China. Blending linguistic insights with everyday adventures, she chronicles three years in Shanghai and Beijing.

The author's resume boasts some impressive credentials, including a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard and a Ph.D in linguistics.

But in *Dreaming in Chinese*, she ventures far from the ivory tower of academia to write as herself: a determined language student, an American woman, a scholar, a wife and a storyteller.

Living overseas is not a new experience for Fallows. She and her husband, journalist James Fallows, resided in the UK, Ghana, Malaysia and Japan before China; the two currently live in Mexico. "It was in China, however, that I found it the most difficult to get small things done, such as fixing a zipper," she says.

Anyone who has relocated to China can remember his or her first days. From remedying culture shock with Chinese classes to cracking the complex transportation process to running to a fast food joint to satisfy cravings for more familiar cuisine, adventures always await.

It is amidst these aspects of day-to-day life that Fallows comes face to face with the people.

Their behavioral characteristics catch her off guard. Why is it acceptable to wear pajamas in broad daylight in Shanghai? Why are there so many rules – even about where one may sit or tie one's shoelaces? And why is it so difficult to cross the street?



Dreaming in Chinese
By Deborah Fallows, 256pp, United Kingdom
Short Books, 195 yuan

Her meager preparations, which included reading books and watching a few movies, proved utterly useless.

In learning Chinese in the classroom and on the street, Fallows observes certain idiosyncrasies of the language: the general lack of "please," "thank you" and "excuse me" come across as abrupt and almost

rude. Fellow foreigners dating Chinese people complained bitterly about their significant other never saying "I love you."

Over time, Fallows noticed that some of the linguistic quirks explained the country's unwritten social codes of conduct. In her anecdotes, she employs her understanding of language to shed light upon Chinese social phenomena.

Seeking to demystify the country, *Dreaming in Chinese* transports readers onto the backstreets of China's metropolises. Whether haggling with bootleg DVD vendors, dining with local friends, doing morning tai chi with old ladies or bargaining with police officers, each experience revealed small truths about Chinese people.

She finds, for example, that the characteristic bluntness is an expression of intimacy and understanding rather than rudeness. The repeated use of intimate phrases, such as "I love you," cheapen their value.

While the subtitle's claim of "discovering what makes a billion people tick" might be too broad an accomplishment for the book to claim, Fallows does make astute observations about life and language in China. Her conclusions come through a comically exasperating process that every "lao tai" in China – whether a newcomer or an "old hand" – can certainly relate to.

"Westerners do have to think in a fundamentally different way to survive in China," Fallows says.

The book is an entertaining, tumultuous journey. Fallows' hard-won insights, garnered through enlightening dialogues and revelatory misunderstandings, offer readers a shortcut to understanding contemporary China on a personal level.

"I felt like I was living this book every day, I was living the stories," she says.

Intellectuals' duet of art, life

By He Jianwei

Two of China's most famous intellectuals – Zhang Yihe, a historian of Chinese opera, and He Weifang, a law professor – have teamed up to produce *Four Hands*, a collection of essays.

Their meeting of minds was born of a meandering path.

He, a law professor at Peking University, was reassigned for two years to Shihezi University in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to help improve the school's programs.

Zhang had visited Xinjiang three times from 2008 to 2009. On her last visit she met He, who showed her his collection of photos from Shihezi University.

Many of He's friends had felt sorry for him because he was transferred to such a nameless school. But Zhang felt otherwise when she saw his photos.

"The scenery of Xinjiang is beautiful. Where else can you see a sunset in the desert at the foot of Tianshan Mountain? A trip to Xinjiang means a turn to nature and a chance to get closer to the human soul," Zhang said.

She told He they should write a book together. At first it was going to be a collection of their experiences in Xinjiang,



Four Hands
By Zhang Yihe and He Weifang, 269pp, Guangxi Normal University Press, 38 yuan

but Zhang thought that was too narrow and monotonous. She instead suggested a collection of stories about what they saw and thought during their two years out west.

Timezone 8 book listing

Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week it recommends three new titles to *Beijing Today* readers.



Chen Qingqing: Enchanted Paradise

Edited by Zhang Sen, 232pp, Timezone 8, \$60

Born in Beijing in 1953, Chen Qingqing studied traditional Chinese medicine and English and German literature before developing a powerful individual style embodying a linguistic system of spiritual intuition. Her subjects and methods are not limited to the motifs of love and life, but include 9/11 and clones.



Artists from Leipzig

Edited by Yun Chea Gab, Henna Jou and Aristide Fenster, 223pp, Arario, \$65

Featuring work by Tilo Baumgartel, Martin Kobe, Uwe Kowski and Tobias Lehner, among others, this volume surveys influential players from the New Leipzig School – painters who have emerged from the venerable Leipzig Art Academy in the former German Democratic Republic.



Gao Yu: Specimen

Edited by Fang Fang, Gong Jian and Lee Ambrozy, 156pp, Timezone 8, \$42

The central character in Gao Yu's paintings is a demonic-looking panda called GG described by critic Lee Ambrozy as "sassy" and "self-flagellating." Gao's panda is quite the opposite of China's docile mascot found in the zoo.

(By He Jianwei)

Cruise styles for urban summer

By Wang Yu

Summer is here. While Beijing may not border the ocean, that's hardly reason to deter the city's beach-crazed fashion fans.

Many pine for a sea voyage – especially the ladies, who hope to attract attention and lenses with their new looks.

While not everyone can be lucky enough to escape the office, But can still incorporate cruise elements to add the fashionable touch of ocean air to their style.

From old hottongs to fancy office buildings, summer threads are adding some color to the dull daily grind.



Ladies' fashion

Swimwear

Beachwear is swimwear.

The right swimsuit can make water sports and sunbathing much more comfortable. But it is important to find pieces that work well. Bikinis, triangle tops, bandinis and tankinis are some of the more popular styles this season.

A riot of colors can be brave and clever enough to make you stand out. This year's runways were full of colorful looks. From saturated jewel tones and 1980s-inspired pastel prints, almost any color was game. This summer is a great chance to break from neutral dark colors.

Popular graphic prints have been increasingly popular, but this year is one of the first times they have appeared on swimwear.

For those who prefer dark, solid colors at work, selecting swimwear is an opportunity to break the mold.

If you go with a graphic print, pay close attention to its size. The design must fit your size, because huge motifs can be overpowering on short women.

Beach cover-ups

Cover-ups are great options for ladies

who are shy about lounging in their swimwear. Most cover-ups are made of gauzy fabric that breathes well.

Floating maxi cover-ups are likely to appeal to the more romantic. This style can even work when it's time to leave the poolside for dinner.

Just make sure the dress is not too wide or it will overwhelm your figure. Maxi cover-ups tend to be narrower and work well for more petite women.

Hats and headscarves

Wind, water and sun are here and ready to wear out your hair and skin. A wide-brimmed hat or summer scarf can go a long way to protect your hair and skin from the summer heat. Cowboy hats and woven straw hats are ideal for staying cool and comfortable.

Colorful floral scarves, worn as fashion accessories, are another great way to keep your hair under control and damage-free. Stick to colorful patterns: vintage designs from the 1970s are a good inspiration. Pick silk.

Beach bags

Beach bags are not exactly new, but this year the trendiest bags at the beach are big and bold. Think designs that

will make a statement and serve a practical function – ladies tend to carry a lot to the beach.

Ladies usually prefer to carry medium-sized bags rather than over-sized ones. But make your beach bag an exception, because a day at the beach or poolside is a day when balance doesn't matter.

Sunglasses

A pair of fitted, over-sized sunglasses is a great way to protect your eyes. This summer there are a lot of funky and colorful shades available.

Choose sunglasses that fit your face. Try to pick something rectangular to balance out a round face. Oval or round sunglasses tend to fit a square face better. Decorated frames can help widen and lengthen an oblong face.



Gentlemen's fashion

Men's styles rarely change, but here are a few tips for this summer.

Colors

Pure white, pale summer gray and pinky beige exude elegance and refinement. For a radical contrast, pair them with a violet bordeaux or inky navy blue: the pale neutrals can play off dark tones.

Brown will be the new black. It can be the starring role both at the beach and in the city since it is better for unique combinations like turquoise, yellow and red. Pastels will not be around anymore – our color palette will be mainly of primary and secondary colors with their most brilliant expressions.

Polos

Polo shirts go well with a short and stylish hat. A slim fit polo looks great on the first day of a weekend

getaway. But lose the top button if you are going for a cruise look.

Change into something more comfortable like a T-shirt when you are about to go in the water.

Canvas belts

Regular leather belts look heavy under the sun. Light-colored canvas belts create a more refreshing look and wear comfortably with shorts.

Panama hats and boaters

We have seen Panama hats on the runways many times this year. It's easy to see why they've become a fashion mainstay. Boaters made of natural materials are also especially trendy: they can make a casual resort fashion look sophisticated. Vintage is the key word. Hats inspired by the 1920s and 1930s will add a classic element to your modern style.



New original design shops at Sanlitun Village



Cotton that blends style and simplicity

The most appropriate clothes for the sweltering summer are those made of pure cotton. Catering to this demand is where the one-year-old domestic brand WO2 hopes to find its niche.

The brand, founded by Liyia Wu and her friend Yao Yu, opened its first store in 798 Art District last year, drawing hordes of young fashionistas. Its Sanlitun flagship store is preparing to welcome shoppers next week.

WO2 is known for its bright-colored cotton T-shirts, dresses, trousers, jackets and cloaks, all of which have simple designs and are free of emblazoned prints. "To make sure the clothes are comfortable and hypoallergenic, we meticulously choose fabrics with 92 to 95 percent cotton," Wu said. "Each piece also has five to eight percent spandex, which ensures elasticity and helps the clothes maintain their shape."

Wu studied finance at university, but could not resist the call of fashion so she decided to go to Parson's University, New York's famed school of design, to earn her master's in fashion merchandising. It was while living in the Big Apple that she thought to start her own clothing line.

"At the time, my favorite clothes were comfortable candy-colored cotton pieces with small, simple designs. I was also inspired by Rachel Pally, a booming women's clothing brand created by a dancer and which focused on 'casual elegance,'" said Wu, who got part of her training as a shop assistant at GAP and an assistant merchandiser at Club Monaco and Twinkle.

When she returned to China in 2007, Wu discovered that there was no domestic brand offering simply-designed cotton clothes like Rachel Pally or American Apparel. With the help of Yao Yu, an expert in fashion marketing, WO2 was born.

The brand's target customers are female urbanites between the ages of 20 and 40. "We mainly design two types of cotton clothes. One has simple, basic cuts like loose T-shirts and slacks; the other follows more classic styles, like body-hugging dresses and two-sided cloaks," Wu said. "We do classic styles because we don't want the brand to be just a fast T-shirt supplier. We want some of our styles to be long-lasting."

Wu said many customers already compare her clothing line to American Apparel, but for her each brand has its own character. "American Apparel's clothes are looser and fit the Western woman's physique better, while WO2's clothes are designed to fit the Asian woman," she said, adding that WO2 is also lighter on the pocket.

The brand has also begun selling Melissa "jelly shoes," which complete the WO2 look. "We are the only shop in Beijing that sells genuine Melissa shoes," Wu said. "You can also get all the colors of the new Vivian Westwood wing shoes designed by Melissa." Older shoe styles are now half-price.

WO2 - 798

Where: Zhongyijie, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Hours: 10 am - 6 pm

Tel: 5978 9144

WO2 - Sanlitun Village

Where: NLG-09, Basement, Sanlitun Village north, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Hours: 10 am - 6 pm

Tel: 13601061887

By Liang Meilan

In fewer than two years, Sanlitun Village has become a Beijing fashion hub with its international-brand flagship stores, lovely boutiques and shops dedicated to original designers. Two brands known for Chinese designs are making a new home in Sanlitun, and *Beijing Today* did some sleuthing work to see if there is cause for excitement.



WO2's T-shirts have simple but stylish designs.

Photos provided by WO2



Designs with a piece of history

Shanghai Trio is a name familiar to both Shanghai's local and expat fashion lovers. The brand, founded by Frenchwoman Virginie Fournier in 1998, sells home decorations and female clothing and accessories that incorporate vanishing aspects of Chinese history.

Its Beijing store, which opened June 5, is infused with the atmosphere of a traditional handicraft workshop. Each product features an element of Chinese culture and art – be it in the product's shape, color, pattern, production technique or practical use.

Women's square- and rectangular-shaped bags are some of the brand's most popular items. Another is gowns for both adults and children. "They are inspired by the shape of traditional Han coats but have been redesigned to give them a contemporary feel," said Carole Beaucour, the Beijing business develop-

ment manager. "They have hand-embroidered motifs on the back, and are made of silk and linen."

Shanghai Trio's design team is composed of 30 local designers and artists from Paris, Hong Kong and Tokyo, headed by Fournier as art director. Fournier said she encourages innovation and experimentation in her people. "I determine one part of

the product's design, then I let people I trust be part of the succeeding steps in the creation process," she said. "The result is sometimes very surprising, much better than what I envisioned." The designs include Chinese characters, auspicious flowers, birds and butterflies.

Fournier said her favorite fabric is a blend of silk and linen, which to her represents "extreme sophistication and simplicity." She also likes using materials that have a long history, such as "mud silk" produced in the south.

Shanghai Trio

Where: NLG-09, Basement, Sanlitun Village north, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Hours: 10 am - 6 pm

Tel: 15910507603

Web: shanghaiitrio.com



Melissa "jelly shoes" available at WO2



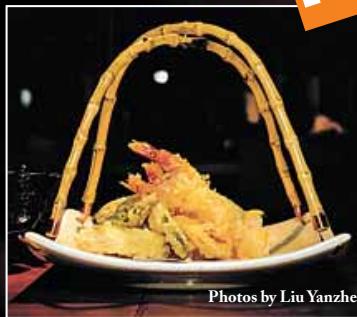
Trolleybus tote bag, 510 yuan



Purses, 350 and 375 yuan
Photos provided by Shanghai Trio

Summer foods and beverages that refresh

New



Blue fin tuna belly, 360 yuan for five pieces

Photos by Liu Yanze



Mango salmon sushi, 40 yuan

New

Pineapple iced tea

Nothing is as good as a homemade smoothie or fresh fruit frappe in the afternoon heat. Sofitel Wanda Beijing Hotel is carrying a series of special homemade iced teas at Visco's every afternoon until the end of the month.

Below is one of their special recipes – pineapple iced tea. It's easy to make and you can show it off at barbecues or outdoor pool parties.

Ingredients:

60 mL Tequila
One pineapple
Fresh watermelon juice
30 mL Sweet and sour mix
30 mL Orange liqueur
30 mL Fresh orange juice

Procedure:

1. Squeeze watermelon and orange
2. Fill the pineapple with ice
3. Pour fresh-squeezed watermelon and orange juice, orange liqueur, sweet and sour mix, and tequila inside glass
4. Stir all ingredients
5. Garnish with strawberry

Sofitel Wanda Hotel

Where: Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 3-6 pm
Cost: 88 yuan surcharge
15 percent
Tel: 8599 6666

Fish Bar

By Annie Wei

People like 1949, a hidden area of bars and restaurants behind Pacific Plaza. It has a spacious courtyard and area used as an art gallery. There is Beijing duck, a simple noodle restaurant and outdoor bar.

Recently, its sugar bar was converted into a toro and sushi restaurant. The space itself has not changed – it's still a glass house with great lighting – but

it has been tinted blue with bamboo-shaped lamps made of transparent resin.

Beijing Today recommends the blue fin tuna belly (360 yuan for five pieces). The fresh red meat feels heavy but is well cut. You can see its skin texture, which is almost semi-transparent. It is smooth and delicious.

Although 1949's fine dining establishments are expensive, Fish Bar has some dishes at reasonable

prices. *Beijing Today* recommends the soft shell crab avocado sushi (50 yuan). The highlight is the avocado on top with light crabmeat underneath. Another good dish is mango salmon sushi (40 yuan). The mango gives the dish a special texture and flavor.

The menu also offers different kinds of tuna rolls, rice and varieties of seafood, such as octopus, scallop, sea urchin, salmon and prawns.

Fish Bar

Where: 4 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 6:10-10:30 pm
Tel: 6501 8883



Green bean soup, 15 yuan

New

Hangzhou green tea

By Annie Wei

Green Tea restaurant, along West Lake, is every food lover's destination when they visit Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. It's known for creative dishes accompanied by poetic scenery.

When the restaurant opened its first branch in Beijing, it chose the Central Business District. Although the ambience can't compare with that of West Lake, the restaurant still offers quality dishes at reasonable prices.

A popular dish is green bean soup, which, at 15 yuan, is enough for several people. Before eating, the fresh, strong aroma of green beans teases the senses. The soup has a smooth texture and slightly sweet taste.

A second must-try is dragon well tea shrimp (19 yuan per person). Unlike similar dishes served in other Hangzhou restaurants, Green Tea's shrimp is steeped in Longjing tea and sautéed with newly sprouted tea leaves. When serving, the waiter will first pour some soup into a small bowl. The essence of this dish lies in the soup, which is very fresh, and not the shrimp, however tender it might be.

Green tea barbecue pork (38 yuan) is highly recommended by the restaurant. The waiter said the

pork is braised with more than 20 ingredients. The meat tastes very soft, and even the fat is delicious.

Farmer's stewed fish (68 yuan) is another specialty. According to dianping.com, many diners prefer the dish's soup over the fish.

The soup comes with a strong flavor of cramp, a few fat clams, bamboo shoots, needle mushroom and fresh fish.

Rough chicken of pepper (58 yuan), with its 800 grams of chicken, is also recommended. The dish is served topped with leeks, and the chicken tastes tender with the flavor of leek, garlic and pepper.

To cater to Beijingers' tastes, Green Tea offers some spicy food as well, like glutinous bullfrog (68 yuan), garnished with cucumber and bean sprouts. Or try the beef lures (48 yuan), with beef that's tender, a little spicy and full of flavor. The dongpurou, a classic dish of braised pork, is only 10 yuan for 200 grams.

The restaurant has a wide selection of fresh juices (38 yuan per jar), summer smoothies and afternoon teas. For some relaxing afternoon moments, *Beijing Today* recommends bread temperature (28 yuan) – fried bread in butter and ice cream on top.

The restaurant had its soft



Rough chicken of pepper, 58 yuan



Dragon well tea shrimp, 19 yuan

Photos by Yu Tingmei

opening at the end of May and is currently offering a 12 percent discount.

Green Tea Restaurant

Where: 2F, Building A, Wenlaite Building, 1 Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 11 pm
Tel: 8880 7988/7388

No ordinary art class



By He Jianwei

Liu Dahong is more social critic than an artist. He has been teaching art for more than two decades – encouraging youth to reflect on present-day China's social trends.

Liu, an avant-garde artist, has been teaching at Shanghai Normal University since his graduation from Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts in 1985, and he has designed a one-of-a-kind syllabus using "society as a model." Some of his workshop's topics, such as plagiarism in university dissertations, are on show at *My University (1990-2010) Liu Dahong Workshop* at Iberia Center for Contemporary Art for a month.

The exhibition uses archival documents to recreate the various academic adventures and experiments that Liu spearheaded in the past two decades, and reveals how an academic community aspiring for free expression battles entrenched, outdated ideas.

"I preferred not to put on an exhibition about the artist's works," Zuo Jing, the curator said. "Because Liu's educational experience is closely related to China's

social reality, I decided to present an exhibition about his relationship with art education. There is probably no exhibition in China similar to this."

It presents in chronological order memorable events in Liu's workshop. It also displays his syllabus, teaching materials, as well as his students' assignments, certificates and diplomas.

"I think the exhibition is highly 'readable' as it offers an abundance of text and personal and public videos in addition to art works," Zuo said. "I believe this exhibition holds historical significance to institutions of higher education in China as well as international art historians and researchers studying the history of Chinese art."

My University (1990-2010) Liu Dahong Workshop

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 25, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9530

Upcoming

Nightlife

Girls are Waiting to Meet You

This two-year-old local band plays rock, pop, jazz, reggae and folk.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzhi-

zhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: July 1, 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan, 30 yuan for

students

Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in July

Concert

Musica Alta Ripa – German Baroque Music Ensemble

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: July 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Yuja Wang and the China NCPA Concert Hall Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA), 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

China National Symphony Orchestra

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: July 11, 7 pm
Admission: 40 and 50 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Garrick Ohlsson Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 11, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-400 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Our Sky

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 25-26, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-400 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Can Three Make It – Part I

Where: 46 Theater, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: July 2-4, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-280 yuan
Tel: 6417 0058

The Poison

Where: Multi-Purpose Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 14-18, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-320 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

Sun Snow

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 1-3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

5 Friday, June 25

Exhibition Seen in Passing – Shi Jing Solo Exhibi- tion

Shi explores the process through which the human mind comprehends moving images by creating landscapes, portraits and heavily bodies on canvas.

Where: Chambers Fine Art, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 24, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5127 3298

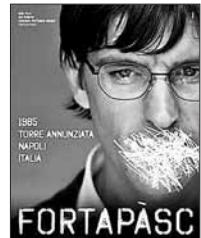
Nightlife

Zhang Si'an Live

French singer and guitarist Jean-Sebastien Hery, known to Chinese fans as Zhang Si'an, has been involved in the local music scene since 2000, including collaborating with Beijing's underground musicians.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 21, 9:30 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6401 4611



Movie

Fortapasc (2009)

Giancarlo Siani was a journalist murdered by the Italian mafia in Naples in 1985, and in this film is depicted as an everyday hero. The film's title is a reference to the classic Hollywood western, *Fort Apache*, as well as the lawlessness of Naples.

Where: Italian Cultural Institute, 2 Dong Er Jie, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6532 2187

Sunday, June 27

Exhibition Original Etchings of Pablo Picasso

The Hagemann Family, were originally included in the collection of etchings, aquatints and drypoints known as the Suite Vollard.

Where: Hagemann Gallery, Building 2, 22 International Art Plaza, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5807 4877



Movie

For Every Minute that I Live, I'll Enjoy the 60 Seconds (2006)

By morning, he is an advertising agent; by noon, he goes to an underground dance hall to seek physical and spiritual

6 Saturday, June 26

Exhibition Raging Balls – Oreet Ashery Solo Exhibition

The idea for the exhibition was born after the artist witnessed three policemen in London roughing up a pedestrian as part of a "stop and search" operation.

Where: Other Gallery Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 19, daily except Monday and Tuesday, 10:30 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 9684

Nightlife



Two Swallows

Local blues singer Liu Dong-hong and his band present the second part of their tetralogy on love.

Where: Instituto Cervantes, 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free (reservation by email necessary)

Email: cultipek@cervantes.org.cn

El secreto de sus ojos (The Secret in Their Eyes, 2009)

In 1999, retired Argentinian federal-justice agent Benjamin Esposito is writing a novel based on the brutal rape and murder of Liliana Coloto.

Where: Instituto Cervantes, 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free (reservation by email necessary)

Email: cultipek@cervantes.org.cn

from Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, takes the stage.

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students

Tel: 6265 3177



I Know You Will Come Here

Lidong, a folk-rock band

Drama

Can Three Make It – Part I

Where: 46 Theater, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: July 2-4, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-280 yuan
Tel: 6417 0058

The Poison

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(By He Jianwei)

Lose your fake lashes for eye health

Blindness a risk

Fake eyelashes are a necessity for 27-year-old singer Wang Na. She usually puts on several layers decorated with beads, crystals or gems to make her eyes shine under the bar lights.

Recently she found her eyes getting bloodshot, dry and itchy. A week of eye-drop use did little to improve her condition.

After seeing an ophthalmologist she learned her eyes were seriously infected.

"False eyelashes are a hygiene risk because they trap dirt and bacteria on the eyelids," said Long Qin, a doctor at Beijing Union Hospital.

"(Natural) eyelashes are very important as they protect the eyes from dust, sweat and foreign materials. However, unhygienic and substandard false eyelashes can spread infection to the most sensitive parts of the pupils."

The Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology warned

By Li Zhixin

Most women want long, thick, beautiful eyelashes, but few are born with them.

Long, thick eyelashes are one of the best facial accessories and can make the eyes appear more striking. Fake eyelashes and mascara have long been popular with women trying to emulate the look.

But few women are aware of the harmful side effects of fake eyelashes.

teenagers that improper and unhygienic storage of false eyelashes can cause eye irritation and infection, which, if left untreated, can result in permanent blindness.

Eyelash extensions and false eyelashes can be great, but don't overdo it. "Have (your eyelashes) done professionally for a glamorous but natural look on a special occasion. The rest of the time it is better to stick to mascara, which is much safer," Long said.

Other dangers

1. Damage to natural lashes

There are many kinds of fake lashes available. The cheapest, which are commonly sold online, can be affixed by the user with glue. The higher-quality individual lashes can also be applied at home. Beauty salon eyelash extensions are the most expensive of all.

"All of the options will inevitably damage your natural lashes," Long said. "Many women have them done for a wedding or other special occasion: the damage is minor and their natural lashes soon recover. The problem comes when you apply false eyelashes repeatedly. Removing them pulls out some of your own lashes and it can take up to six weeks for them to re-grow."

2. Allergic reactions can damage the eyes

Some people may be allergic to the

adhesive used to attach synthetic lashes. The allergic reaction can cause their eyelids to swell and turn their eyes red and sore.

If you do decide on professional eyelash extensions it is best to go to a reputable salon. They should do a patch test on your first visit to make sure you will not have an allergic reaction.

"In the test, a small amount of adhesive is placed in an inconspicuous place, usually behind your ear. You will need to have this test done at least 24 hours before you have your extensions, but it is a good idea to have it done the week before so you can cancel the appointment ahead of time," she said.

Women should also wash their hands before applying eyelashes and clean them before reusing them. Teenagers should avoid sharing eyelashes with other people or using them for a long time.

Natural ways to grow your lashes

1. Watch your diet

Without proper nutrition, your body will cease to grow hair, fingernails and even eyelashes.

"Anything that makes your hair grow will help your eyelashes grow," Long said. "You should eat more whole grains, organic fruits, vegetables and meat, but avoid processed foods and sugary sweets."

2. Take more vitamins

Make sure you are taking a good multivitamin as well as a regular acai supplement. Acai is the best supplement to stimulate hair and skin rejuvenation and purge the body of toxins. Its nutrients can help maintain your body and boost your energy, libido and stamina.

Acai promotes healthy, glowing skin and hair, sleep and immunity. It also fights inflammation to reduce pain and soreness.

Taking a vitamin B supplement can also help your eyelashes. Biotin is usually used to strengthen nails and the hair on the head, but it is also effective at strengthening eyelashes.

3. Apply vitamin E or natural lubricants

Vitamin E is known to cause hair growth and soothe scalp irritation, so if you have eyelash loss due to irritation it may reverse it. Applying natural lubricants to your eyelashes can also

strengthen them.

"This not only protects your eyelashes from the elements, but the coating makes them look longer. Olive oil and petroleum jelly are quite effective. Put these products on your eyelashes at night and wash them off in the morning," Long said.

Brushing your lashes regularly may also stimulate growth.

4. Avoid toxic mascara

Opting for an all-natural mascara will prevent toxic buildup that can weaken lashes and cause them to fall out.

5. Remove eye makeup naturally

Since mascara residue will dry and strip your lashes, you'll want to try a natural and gentle eye makeup remover.

"Try petroleum jelly. It's a cheaper alternative to eye makeup removers and lasts forever. It works wonders to remove most mascara and eye makeup with one swipe," she said.

6. Don't rub your eyes when tired

Rubbing your eyes can weaken and loosen your lashes. It can also stretch the tender skin around eyes and cause wrinkles.

7. Trimming lashes can stimulate growth

Many people who accidentally burn off or trim their lashes notice they grow back longer and thicker. That's not to say you should shave them off! Trimming should be minimal: cut no more than the very tip.

Summer harvest time in golden wheat fields

Beijing suburb initiates wheat field experience

By Zhang Dongya

Golden wheat ripens during the early summer, and for the first time, owners of wheat fields in suburb in Shunyi District are offering city dwellers a chance to experience the harvest.

Last weekend, local farmers welcomed urbanites to watch them work in the vast golden fields. Some came away with beautiful photos; others helped reap bundles of wheat using sickles and other tools. "I enjoyed harvest time, which I think is a pure and primitive moment," said Chen Aichun, a participant and editor in chief of likefar.com, a popular travel network based in Beijing.



For city dwellers, the experience of reaping wheat is very unique.



In big fields, loud combines do all the hard work.

Rushing out for wheat harvest

Faced with high summertime temperatures, farmers wake early to work in the fields. At the wheat fields of Xiaotang Village in Shunyi's Dasungezhuang Town, visitors usually gather a bit later – at 7 am – and spend an hour in the wheat fields.

The fields are vast, with wheat growing in neat rows. It rained the day before, so the fields' natural gold color was a dull dark-yellow, with hints of green during the Sunday harvest.

Local government officials held a brief ceremony to announce the opening of

"Sickle Day." Farmers said the harvesting always happens fast, and is over in two or three days.

In the big fields, motorized combines buzzed incessantly. In the smaller fields, farmers do everything by hand. Experienced farmers can reap very fast and masterfully.

Visitors were allowed to cut wheat with sickles. They were assigned to different rows and given a quick demonstration.

There were white-haired elders who cut the wheat skillfully and quickly. Many of them had been sent to the country-

side for work during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), and they nostalgically recalled their lives 30 years ago.

Several parents, who had brought their children, reaped as well. They showed their kids what tools to use and explained how wheat is turned to flour, then bread. Children helped transfer the sheared wheat so that farmers could tie them into neat bales.

By 9:30 am it became very hot. Visitors took a break at the edge of the field and talked to the farmers about rural life and the harvest yield.

Most of the participants enjoyed their time sweating in the sun-soaked fields. Those fond of photography kept snapping pictures.

"The experience of reaping wheat is very unique for city dwellers," Chen said. "I hope more local folk events will be held with the harvest in future years. For example, peasants could share seasonal fruits and vegetables to celebrate the harvest, and then hold campfires and village operas. Seeing this can help visitors better understand farm life."

Continued on page 21...



The wheat harvest always begins after Mangzhong and usually ends in just two or three days.

Photos by Chen Aichun



Children help transfer the sheared wheat.

... continued from page 20

Touring suburban wheat fields

"Wheat fields are always seen in literature and works of art, but it's a pity that few can be accessed by tourists. It's a very special experience," said Chen Changchun, the manager of likefar.com. He has scouted several wheat fields in Beijing. Here are his recommendations:

Dasungezhuang in Shunyi District

This field comes highly recommended, as it's organized and promoted by a local government organization. Located in Xiaotang Village, the field is extensive and the wheat is neatly arranged.

Near the fields are farmlands with cole flowers and sunflowers.

In June, the wheat grows to be waist-high and begins to turn yellow. It becomes ready to harvest after Mangzhong, a term in the Chinese solar calendar that means "bearded grain."

Those interested should bring a hat or umbrella to protect against the sun, as there is no shade in the field.

Getting there: Drive along Beijing-Pinggu Expressway; take Sunsanlu exit and turn left, then turn right at the second traffic light. The wheat fields are at the east of Xiaotang Village.

Caozhuang Village in Tongzhou District

Large areas of wheat fields are located on Dayunhe Road in Caozhuang Village of Guoxian Town. The Grand Canal and woods alongside the river add scenery to the fields and provides shade during summer.

Getting there: Drive along Beijing-Shenyang Expressway and take the Xiji exit. Drive south and turn right at the sign for Hehe Village. Go another five minutes and you will see the fields on your right.

Wuzi Village in Fangshan District

There are big wheat fields with large areas of shade at this field. On the way there, visitors can pick seasonal fruits such as watermelon and muskmelon. You may still be able to see cole flowers near the wheat fields.

Getting there: Drive along Beijing-Shijiazhuang Expressway and take the Nanliuhuan exit. Go on South Fifth Ring Road in the Daxing direction and take the Liangguan exit. Turn left and drive to Wuzi Village.



Visitors can also view a sea of sunflowers near the wheat fields.

Photos by Chen Aichun



Notes for viewing and photographing wheat fields:

1. By late June, wheat turns from green to golden yellow. The best time to view or photograph the seas of wheat is in the early morning (6-8 am) and at dusk (5-7 pm).

2. Ripe wheat usually gets sprayed with pesticides, so be cautious, especially with children.

3. As most wheat fields are far from the villages, make sure to pack enough food and water.

4. Drive to the fields. They are far away and expansive, and it's usually too hot to walk around during summer.

Dining

Wind down at the Wine Club

Hosted by Hilton's trailblazing sommelier Julia Zhu, the Wine Club will take you on a virtual journey through some of the world's finest wine regions with wine flights, expert commentary and a selection of delectable canapés. The event begins with a creative cocktail, followed by a fun and informative tasting of five wines.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Every Thursday, 6:30-10 pm
Cost: 150 yuan per person
(15 percent surcharge)
Tel: 5865 5030



Mushroom delights

Savor mushrooms at their best, in a delectable special menu featuring Summer Palace chef Stanley Yuen's signature double-boiled fresh abalone and matsutake soup, braised chicken with wild mushrooms and stir-fried beef and mushroom with lotus root.

Where: Summer Palace, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6505 5838



Fresh seafood

Rouge's sumptuous seafood features a combination of Western and Asian specialties, an impressive selection of fresh seafood, such as jumbo shrimps, salmon, crab and scallops. No matter what time of day, the stylish decor, beautiful flavors and delightful ambiance will please even the most discerning patron.

Where: Rouge, Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun, 106 Zichun Lu, Haidian District
Tel: 5993 8888

Gastronomic Tour de France

Chef Yannick Ehrsam has created special menus to let you discover the culinary specialties from different regions of France. Travel the seaside, mountains and countryside through gourmet cuisine.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 4-26
Tel: 8599 6666



High tea

The weekend high tea buffet at lobby lounge is 118 yuan per person every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 6 pm. Let go of your stress and work with an extensive selection of pastries from the renowned Kempinski Deli.

Where: Rendez-vous Bar & Lounge, Kempinski Hotel Beijing, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: daily, 8 am – next day
Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 4225



Sea cucumber promotion

Chinese culture regards the sea cucumber as a delicacy. This July, Executive Chef Tian Qiuming at the 21/F Chinese Restaurant is serving delicate sea cucumber dishes, such as braised sea cucumber with sautéed crab, live sea cucumber in supreme broth with aweto and wild mushroom and stewed live sea cucumber with millet and pumpkin in supreme broth.

Where: The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing, 10 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6590 5566 ext. 2295



Australian BBQ night

Every Thursday from 7- to 10 pm Chef Glenn will present an Australian BBQ with specialties including rib-eye steak, ginger-marinated Atlantic salmon, spice-coated prawns and garlic, rosemary lamb cutlets and soy and chili chicken thigh fillets.

Where: Sunset Lounge, Swissotel Beijing Hong Kong Macau Center, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Chaoyang District

Cost: 228 yuan per person (includes BBQ, salad bar and dessert); ladies get free local red or white wine, beer and soft drinks through 10 pm
Tel: 6553 2288 ext. 2127

Hotel

Summer promotion

The Regent Beijing is set between the sleek modernity of the business district and the ancient *hutong*. Its 500 luxurious guest rooms and suites are spacious and boast modern features and stylish amenities. Some rooms have panoramic views of the spectacular Forbidden City. Guests can enjoy one daily buffet breakfast, four free cans of soft drinks from the mini bar each day and free laundry for two garments during their stay.

Where: The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: June 15 – August 29
Cost: 988 yuan per night
Tel: 8522 1888 ext. 5635

Great Wall Friendship Award

Beijing's Mayor Guo Jinlong presented the 2009 Great Wall Friendship Award to Fouad EL Mabrouk, general manager of the Grand Hyatt Beijing and to 15 fellow recipients for their contributions to the city's social and economic progress. Set up by the municipal government in 1999, the annual award is the top honor for foreign experts working in Beijing. A total of 145 foreign experts from 28 countries have received the award.



Millennium & Copthorne expands Loyalty Club

Millennium & Copthorne International launched a new loyalty program, the Millennium & Copthorne Loyalty Club (M&C Loyalty Club). The new M&C Loyalty Club offers privileges and rewards usable at all Millennium & Copthorne hotels globally. Membership is divided into three tiers — Classic, Gold and Diamond — depending on the member's qualifying stays. Each tier receives privileges at all the properties under the program, including fast-track registration, early check-in and late check-out, broadband benefits, complimentary room upgrades, birthday rates and dining discounts.

For more information, visit mncloyalty.com.

Shangri-La journey package

Shangri-La's Villingili Resort and Spa, Maldives, is introducing a four-night package including three paying nights at the resort and one free night at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore. The package, valid through December 23, is an opportunity for guests to extend their relaxing holiday in Maldives with a city escape to Singapore at no extra cost. The package starts at \$860 (5,860 yuan) per villa per night for a Pool Villa and includes return domestic flights from Male to Gan, daily buffet breakfast and one night at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

Tel: 960 689 7888

Aviation

Take off to South Africa

To accommodate soccer fans, the airline is running 19 flights a week to Johannesburg and seven to Cape Town, as well as extending its connections to domestic and regional locations through Comair. British Airways customers flying to Africa during June and July can look forward to locally sourced fresh produce onboard flights. English favorites such as chicken tikka masala, whiskey-cured salmon with Grimsby potted shrimps, medallion of beef and Eton Mess with strawberry compote will be available on board, along with a wide selection of South African wines.

For more information about the airline, visit ba.com.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

He eats no fish while she has an itchy palm



By Li Zhixin

Tang Ying, a 34-year-old Ph.D. student of international relations, has recently been asking all her friends to introduce handsome men to her.

I met her last year when I went to her university to do an interview. Like me, she was also born in Xi'an, and we've traded many stories about growing up in the ancient city.

We had dinner together last month and she poured out her grief about how she can't find a boyfriend. "Many friends have introduced guys to me, but all of them backed off as soon as they knew I was studying for a doctorate," Tang said. "Now I'm regretting taking my Ph.D."

She looked at me with pleading eyes: "Can you please introduce to me a guy from your media circle who doesn't consider a Ph.D. student a monster?"

I promised to do my best.

Fate stepped in last Thursday, when I bumped into Zhang Wei, a former college classmate and financial journalist, at a press conference.

"Wei, how have you been?" I said.

"Everything is going well, but I'm still single because of my

heavy workload," he said, adding with a grin, "Do you have a talented female friend you can introduce to me?"

"Yes!" I said, immediately launching into a description of Tang Ying.

Zhang said it sounded like he and Tang had many things in common, and he asked me to help fix a dinner date with her that weekend.

To get Tang excited for the date, I sang Zhang's praises when I called her the following day. "He is the most promising journalist at his paper. But more importantly, he eats no fish," I said in English.

"He doesn't eat fish? Then I guess I won't order fish tomorrow though it's my favorite," Tang said, grumbling.

"It has nothing to do with fish but a man who is honest and trustworthy," I said, feeling embarrassed.

British history has seen a fierce struggle between Catholic and Protestant Christians. To demonstrate loyalty to their faith, which broke away from Catholicism, Protestants refused to eat fish – the only meat the Catholic Church allowed during Holy Week, a major religious holiday. Since then, 'Eat no fish' has become a declaration of loyalty.

This Monday, I was eager for news about my two friends' date. I saw Zhang on MSN and asked him how the dinner went.

"I felt she had an itchy palm," he typed in English.

"You held her hand?" I was surprised they had gotten to that point so quickly.

"No. Her hand is OK," he wrote. "I meant she is money-mad."

"What did you talk about?" I asked.

"I'm very interested in what she's studying, so I asked her about her views on the state of Sino-American relations," he wrote. "But she just wanted to talk about the man's role in a marriage. She said the most important thing is for a man to know how to make lots of money so his wife and children will have a comfortable life."

Zhang said he ended the evening early because the conversation made him uncomfortable. "She never mentioned a woman making sacrifices together with her husband so they can build a good future. I don't think we have anything in common after all," he wrote.

It's clearer to me now why Tang is having such difficulty finding a partner.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Snack optional palace

By Tiffany Tan

In children's picture books, palaces are magnificent structures with kitchens and dining halls overflowing with roast meat, baked dishes fresh from the oven, succulent fruits, heavenly desserts and glasses of fine wine. And the palace we have above says even a measly snack is optional! Who would want to visit it?

How about a buffet – who wants to eat at a buffet? I'm betting many

would. And this is exactly what our Chinese palace is offering. It missed the right English word, but did get to the heart of it: eating only the food you want from the feast spread out before you.

A buffet is commonly called *zizhucan*, but the sign up there uses *xizuan*, which means "optional." If the first word were used, the English translation would have been closer to the mark: self-help meal.

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. Hi, you guys!

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): People are getting used to addressing a group of people in their e-mail messages with "Hi, you guys!" But, you might not be conscious that this may offend someone; it may not be appropriate for groups of mixed gender, or for all-female groups. We may be cautioned from using the word if we dive into the history of the word "guy." It comes from Guy Fawkes, a conspirator in the Gun Powder Plot in 1605, which planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London. The word came to be used for effigies of Guy Fawkes that were paraded and burned on November 5, the anniversary of the plot. The word evolved to mean any effigy, any scary-looking or badly-dressed person, and then gradually became a generic term for a man. Now, what troubles some people is its gender implication. Since people will not address a group of men and women with "you gals," then should "you guys" be used? It may make some women think that they are overlooked or ignored. Others may not like it, just as they do not like "honey," "sugar," or "chick." The proposed word is "dudes."

Native Speaker Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): I think "Hi, you guys!" is fine if it's a group of friends. If they are friends, you should know if one of them might be offended. However, I'm not sure the feminists would be pleased with "dude" either. It has connotations of cowboys at dude-ranches and macho men with oil-slicked hair. Instead, "Hi everyone" or "Hey there" might be better choices for a general email to a group of people you don't know well, such as your co-workers.

2. The artist's art is mostly linked with "chai."

SZ: When I first came across this sentence, I got totally confused; I could not make out what it meant. It turns out "chai" is a Chinese word. It is so abruptly presented to the reader and, if the reader happens to be a foreigner who just recently came to China, he will not understand what it means. So, when we wish to use Chinese words in English writing, we have to present them in a clear manner with proper English translations.

I recently read an article written by Alan Wheatley in which he says, "The phrase 'guojin mintui' – the state advances as the private sector retreats – has become common currency in debates about the Chinese economy." He uses the *pinyin* and gives the English equivalent beside it to make things very clear to any reader. This is a model to bear in mind. As for the sample sentence, we may say: The artist's art is mostly linked with "chai," a Chinese character that means "to demolish" and which is written on the walls of buildings slated for demolition. Isn't this better?

TBZ: While the use of quotation marks are good – in general, I use double quotations for a "phrase" and single quotations for a "term" – another way to make *pinyin* obvious in an article is to use italics. Of course, as Professor Zhu said, the term should be explained the first time you use it. It is then your reader's responsibility to remember the term and what it means. So, in the articles mentioned above, the writer can continue to use *chai* and *guojin mintui* throughout, without having to repeat a long-winded English explanation every time.

3. She confessed to have cheated on him twice.

SZ: To confess can be either a transitive or an intransitive verb. When it is transitive, it means "to acknowledge, to admit, to own up to." For example: The fat man confessed to his fault, which was a weakness for candy. When it is intransitive, it means "to admit to one's guilt; own up to." For instance: My brother confessed to eating the cake. Take note of the combination of the phrase "confess to." It must be followed either by a noun or a participial phrase instead of an infinitive phrase. Here are some examples: The man refused to confess to his crime (a noun). He confessed to having committed a crime (a participial phrase as the object). Now let us go back to the sample sentence and see where the error lies. As we have discussed above, it should be: She confessed to having cheated on him twice.

TBZ: I think this is a good example of the difference between correct written English and spoken English slang. In a conversation, a native English speaker may not notice the sentence's grammar. But in a written article, the sentence becomes awkward and a good editor will be able to fix it.

Remember Me (2010)

Movie of the week

You never know who will be the one to teach you life's toughest lessons. Once in a while an actual teacher fulfills that role. Sometimes it's a friend; sometimes it's a parent. Even if we already know deep down what they are trying to teach, it can be a reminder of who we are and what we hold dear. This film reinforces that inner revelations we often try to ignore, deny, suppress and trivialize should be recognized. And valued.

It has been a long time since a film followed this reviewer home, so Kudos to the writers and the cast.

Synopsis

In *Remember Me*, Robert Pattinson plays Tyler, a rebellious young man in New York City who has had a strained relationship with his father (Pierce Brosnan) ever since tragedy separated the family. Tyler didn't think anyone could understand what he was going through until he met Ally (Emilie de Ravin). Love is the last thing on his mind, but he begins to fall for her as she inspires him. Their love helps him to find happiness and meaning. Secrets surface and tragedy looms as the circumstances that brought them together threaten to tear them apart. Set in the summer of 2001, the romantic drama is a story about the power of love, the strength of family and the importance of treasuring every day.

Scene 1 (The Hawkins are at a restaurant)

Diane (D): Did you tell Tyler what your art teacher said about your portrait?

Caroline (C): Mom!

D: Tell him!

C: She said I captured the moment like a young James Whistler.

Tyler (T): Well, at least it's a young James Whistler, because, God, I mean, Whistler, he fell off (1) in the latter half of his career. He is the Boyz II Men of European art history.

D: She recommended your sister to Steinhardt's Summer Art Intensive, and that's hugely prestigious.

T: It's fantastic.

Charles Hawkins (H): It's great.

C: I'm going to do a drawing called "My Brother and His Favorite Cigarette." And, since I'd be the youngest person ever, practically, to be studying there ...

H: Tyler, would you please pass the sugar?

T: She still has a couple of minutes left on the clock (2). Dad. Just a couple of seconds.

H: Caroline's perfectly capable of speaking up if she's feeling slighted in any way. Have I slighted (3) you in any way, Caroline?

C: I'm fine.

H: I didn't mean to change the subject.

T: What was the subject?

H: Excuse me?

T: The subject we were discussing. What was it?

H: Now is not the time for your heroics, Tyler.

T: Actually, now is the perfect time. All right. I gotta go.

D: Tyler.

T: Caroline, do you want me to take you anywhere?

C: I'm OK. I'll stay with Mom.

T: All right. I'll see you soon.

H: The sugar. Eat something.



Scene 2 (At the school library)

Aidan Hall (A): Hey, what about Atlantic City for your birthday this year, man?

Tyler (T): Really?

A: Yeah. We'll get a suite. You could call Toothbrush Girl (4).

T: I think I'd rather be sodomized with a toothbrush than that.

A: It's your day, man. We can work something out.

T: The schematic for these particular shelves is of authors who have slept together and ended up dead or in prison.

A: No shit?

T: Shit.

A: See, that's why chicks dig (5) you, man. No, seriously. They love this freaky poetic crap. Oh! I ran into Megan yesterday. She's bar tending at Don Hill's tonight, man. Wants us to stop by. She practically begged me. Yeah, poor thing.

(Tyler punches Adian)

T: Who else do you plan on asking?

Scene 3 (At the bar)

Tyler (T): Excuse me? Can I bother you for a second?

Alyssa Craig (A): You're already bothering me.

T: Listen, I'm doing this sociological experiment, and I was just wondering if you could help me out for a second.

A: You're kidding me, right?

T: Can I ask your name?

A: Anonymous.

T: Anonymous. Is that Greek? Okay, Anonymous, you see the guy sitting over there, pretending to read a textbook, looking in this general direction?

A: Yeah, he's staring at us. Subtle.

T: I have this theory that an objective third party such as yourself could determine how much of an asshole he is just by looking at him. See, I'm his roommate, and I think I've witnessed too many glaring examples of ass-holic behavior that I'm biased as a subject. But I'm convinced that he has an aura that you can actually perceive.

A: Who else do you plan on asking?

T: I don't know. I don't think anybody else here fits the criteria. Attractive, early-twenties female ...

A: Ah! Nineteen.

T: Nineteen. I'm ... That's fine. Teens. I can do teens.

A: OK.

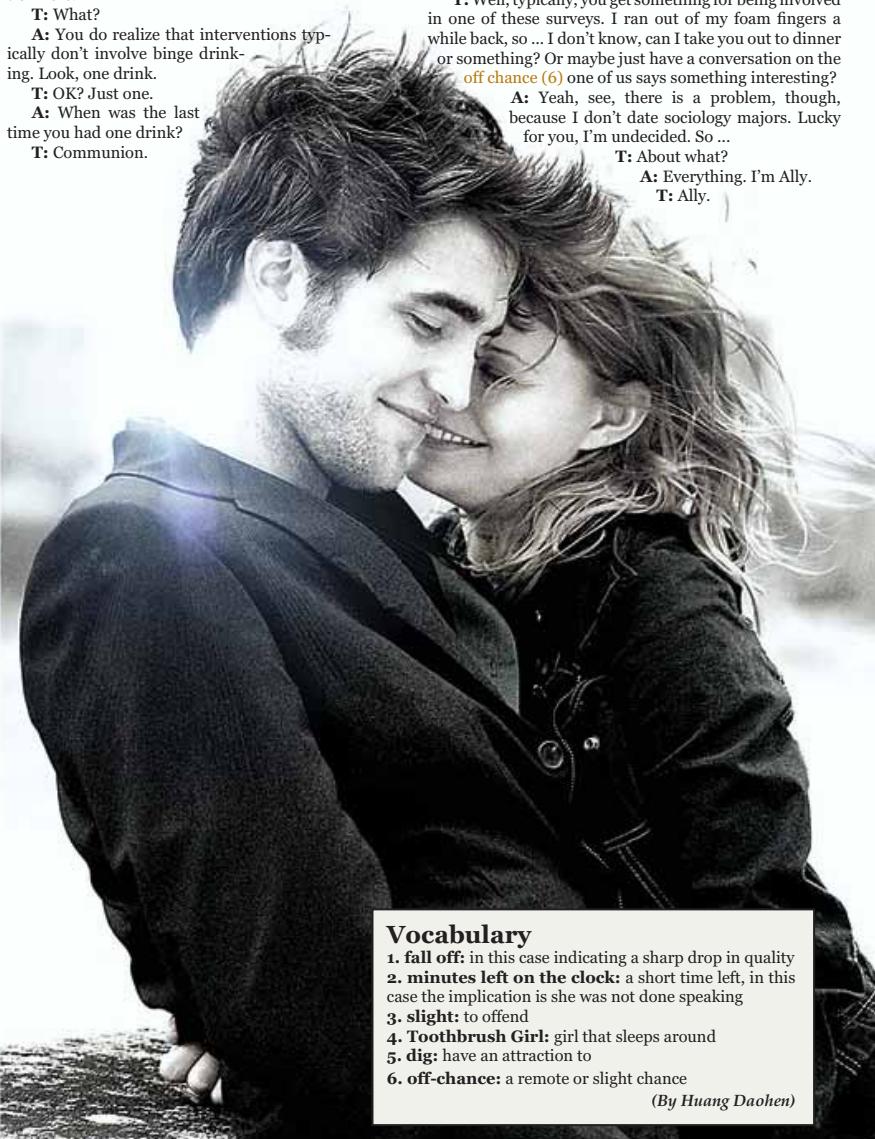
T: Well, typically, you get something for being involved in one of these surveys. I ran out of my foam fingers a while back, so ... I don't know, can I take you out to dinner or something? Or maybe just have a conversation on the off chance (6) one of us says something interesting?

A: Yeah, see, there is a problem, though, because I don't date sociology majors. Lucky for you, I'm undecided. So ...

T: About what?

A: Everything. I'm Ally.

T: Ally.



Vocabulary

1. fall off: in this case indicating a sharp drop in quality
2. minutes left on the clock: a short time left, in this case the implication is she was not done speaking
3. slight: to offend
4. Toothbrush Girl: girl that sleeps around
5. dig: have an attraction to
6. off-chance: a remote or slight chance

(By Huang Daohen)